FREEDOM'S FLAME: LIVES OF INDIA'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS

SOME INFORMATION IN SHORT

#	Name	Lifespan (Birth – Death)	Primary Region	Core Historical Movement / Role
1	Rani Velu Nachiyar	3 Jan 1730 – 25 Dec 1796	Tamil Nadu	Pre-1857 Armed Resistance; Kuyili Suicide Strike
2	Periya Marudhu	1748 – 24 Oct 1801	Tamil Nadu	Second Palayakarrar War; Tiruchirappalli Proclamation
3	Tilka Manjhi	11 Feb 1750 – 13 Jan 1785	Bihar / Jharkhand	First Tribal Revolt; Cleveland Assassination
4	Pazhassi Raja	3 Jan 1753 – 30 Nov 1805	Kerala	Cotiote War; Wayanad Jungle Guerrilla Campaign
5	Chinna Marudhu	1753 – 24 Oct 1801	Tamil Nadu	Second Palayakarrar War; Tiruchirappalli Proclamation
6	Veerapandiya Kattabomman	3 Jan 1760 – 16 Oct 1799	Tamil Nadu	Panchalankurichi Siege; Fiscal Defiance
7	Velu Thampi Dalawa	6 May 1765 – 29 Mar 1809	Travancore (Kerala)	Kundara Proclamation; Anti-Subsidy Insurrection
8	Kunwar Singh	Nov 1777 – 26 Apr 1858	Bihar	1857 Uprising; Arrah Campaign (80-year-old General)
9	Kittur Chennamma	14 Nov 1778 – 21 Feb 1829	Karnataka	1824 Kittur Uprising; Defiance of Pre-Doctrine Policy
10	Sangolli	15 Aug	Karnataka	Kittur Guerrilla Front;

	Rayanna	1796 – 26 Jan 1831		Parallel Native Administration
11	Bhogtari Baruani	1901 – 20 Sep 1942	Assam	Quit India Movement; Nagaon District Vanguard
12	U Tirot Sing Syiemlieh	1802 – 17 July 1835	Meghalaya	Anglo-Khasi War; Nongkhlaw Hill Guerrilla Front
13	Veerasurendra Sai	23 Jan 1809 – 28 Feb 1884	Odisha	Sambalpur Tribal Uprising; 37-year Incarceration
14	Tantia Tope	1814 – 18 Apr 1859	Maharashtra / MP	1857 Uprising; Guerrilla Master of Bithoor
15	Begum Hazrat Mahal	c. 1820 – 7 Apr 1879	Awadh (UP)	1857 Uprising; Siege of Lucknow; Exile in Nepal
16	Nana Sahib Peshwa II	19 May 1824 – c. 1859	Maharashtra / UP	1857 Uprising; Kanpur Siege Leader
17	Sidho Murmu	1825 – 5 Dec 1855	Jharkhand	Santhal Hul (Rebellion) of 1855 Co-Leader
18	Dadabhai Naoroji	4 Sep 1825 – 30 Jun 1917	Maharashtra / UK	Economic "Drain Theory"; First Asian British MP
19	Mangal Pandey	19 Jul 1827 – 8 Apr 1857	Uttar Pradesh	Barrackpore Mutiny; Spark of the 1857 Uprising
20	Kanhu Murmu	1828 – 23 Feb 1856	Jharkhand	Santhal Hul (Rebellion) of 1855 Co-Leader
21	Rani Lakshmibai	19 Nov 1828 – 18 Jun 1858	Jhansi (UP) / MP	1857 Uprising; Siege of Jhansi; Gwalior Cavalry Fall
22	Jhalkaribai	22 Nov 1830 – 4 Apr 1858	Jhansi (UP)	Durga Dal (Women's Wing); Deceptive Stand at Jhansi

23	Avantibai Lodhi	25 Jan 1831 – 20 Mar 1858	Madhya Pradesh	1857 Uprising; Ramgarh Mandla Campaign
24	Bhima Nayak	1840 – 29 Dec 1876	Madhya Pradesh	Bhil Tribal Insurgency; Robin Hood of Satpura
25	Vasudev Balwant Phadke	4 Nov 1845 – 17 Feb 1883	Maharashtra	Ramoshi Insurgency; Early Armed Revolt Leader
26	Bal Gangadhar Tilak	23 Jul 1856 – 1 Aug 1920	Maharashtra	Lal-Bal-Pal; *Kesari*; Gita Rahasya; Home Rule
27	Bir Tikendrajit Singh	29 Dec 1856 – 13 Aug 1891	Manipur	Anglo-Manipur War of 1891; Senapati of Imphal
28	Bipin Chandra Pal	7 Nov 1858 – 20 May 1932	Bengal / Bangladesh	Lal-Bal-Pal; Swadeshi Movement Orator
29	Madan Mohan Malviya	25 Dec 1861 – 12 Nov 1946	Uttar Pradesh	Four-time INC President; Founder of BHU
30	Bhikaji Cama	24 Sep 1861 – 13 Aug 1936	Maharashtra / France	India House London; Unfurled First National Flag (1907)
31	Lala Lajpat Rai	28 Jan 1865 – 17 Nov 1928	Punjab	Lal-Bal-Pal; DAV Schools; Simon Commission Protest
32	Gopal Krishna Gokhale	9 May 1866 – 19 Feb 1915	Maharashtra	Moderate Congress Leader; Servants of India Society
33	Mahatma Gandhi	2 Oct 1869 – 30 Jan 1948	Gujarat	Pioneer of Satyagraha; Dandi March; Quit India
34	Matangini Hazra	19 Oct 1870 – 29 Sep 1942	Bengal	Civil Disobedience; Tamluk Station Martyr ("Gandhi Buri")
35	Chittaranjan Das	5 Nov 1870 – 16 Jun	Bengal	Alipore Trial Shield; Co-Founder of Swaraj

		1925		Party
36	Sri Aurobindo Ghosh	15 Aug 1872 – 5 Dec 1950	Bengal / Pondicherry	*Bande Mataram* Editor; Radical turned Philosopher
37	Chidambaram Pillai (V.O.C.)	5 Sep 1872 – 18 Nov 1936	Tamil Nadu	Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company; Coral Mill Strike
38	Tanguturi Prakasam	23 Aug 1872 – 20 May 1957	Andhra Pradesh	"Andhra Kesari"; Simon Commission Bare-Chest Defiance
39	Kumaran Asan	12 April 1873 – 16 Jan 1924	Kerala	Sree Narayana Guru Disciple; Renaissance Poet
40	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	31 Oct 1875 – 15 Dec 1950	Gujarat	Bardoli Satyagraha; Political Integration of 565 States
41	Birsa Munda	15 Nov 1875 – 9 Jun 1900	Jharkhand	Ulgulan Tribal Rebellion; Creator of *Birsait* Faith
42	Pingali Venkayya	2 August 1876 – 4 July 1963	Andhra Pradesh	National Flag Architect; Anglo-Boer War Veteran
43	Sarojini Naidu	13 Feb 1879 – 2 Mar 1949	Hyderabad / UP	INC Female President (1925); Dharasana Raid Leader
44	Bagha Jatin	7 Dec 1879 – 10 Sep 1915	Bengal / Odisha	Jugantar Cell; Indo-German Plot; Balasore Trench Battle
45	Senapati Bapat	12 Nov 1880 – 28 Nov 1967	Maharashtra	Paris Bomb Manual Smuggler; Mulshi Land Satyagraha
46	Subramania Bharati	11 Dec 1882 – 11 Sep 1921	Tamil Nadu	Pioneer Nationalist Poet; Editor of *India* (Pondicherry)
47	Madan Lal Dhingra	18 Sep 1883 – 17 Aug 1909	Punjab / UK	India House; Assassinated Curzon Wyllie in London
48	Vinayak	28 May	Maharashtr	Abhinav Bharat;

	Damodar Savarkar	1883 – 26 Feb 1966	a / Andamans	Marseille Escape; Hindutva Ideologue
49	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	3 Dec 1884 – 28 Feb 1963	Bihar	Champaran Satyagraha; First President of India
50	Rash Behari Bose	25 May 1886 – 21 Jan 1945	Bengal / Japan	1912 Hardinge Bomb Plot; Ghadar Plot; INA Founder
51	Vanchinathan	1886 – 17 Jun 1911	Tamil Nadu	Bharatha Matha Cell; Maniyachi Junction Execution
52	Saifuddin Kitchlew	15 Jan 1888 – 8 Feb 1963	Punjab	Anti-Rowlatt Act Leader; Jallianwala Bagh Trigger
53	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	11 Nov 1888 – 22 Feb 1958	Bengal / Delhi	*Al-Hilal* Weekly; Longest-serving Wartime INC President
54	Jawaharlal Nehru	14 Nov 1889 – 27 May 1964	Uttar Pradesh	1929 *Purna Swaraj* Author; First Prime Minister of India
55	Khudiram Bose	3 Dec 1889 – 11 Aug 1908	Bengal	Anushilan Samiti; Muzaffarpur Bombing Martyr (Age 18)
56	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	6 Feb 1890 – 20 Jan 1988	NWFP (Pakistan)	"Frontier Gandhi"; Khudai Khidmatgar Non-Violent Army
57	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar	14 April 1891 – 6 Dec 1956	Maharashtra / Delhi	Mahad Satyagraha; Chairman of Constitutional Drafting
58	Garimella Satyanarayana	16 Dec 1893 – 18 Dec 1952	Andhra Pradesh	Composed Banned Mass Telugu Folk Ballad against Raj
59	Surya Sen	22 March 1894 – 12 January 1934	Bengal / Bangladesh	"Masterda"; Chief Architect of Chittagong Armoury Raid
60	Kartar Singh	24 May	Punjab /	Ghadar Party Journal

	Sarabha	1896 – 16 Nov 1915	USA	Editor; Lahore Mutiny Plot Spark
61	Subhas Chandra Bose	23 Jan 1897 – 18 Aug 1945	Odisha / Singapore	Forward Bloc; Supreme Commander of Azad Hind Fauj (INA)
62	Ram Prasad Bismil	11 Jun 1897 – 19 Dec 1927	Uttar Pradesh	Co-Founder of HRA; Kakori Train Treasury Robbery
63	Alluri Sitarama Raju	4 Jul 1897 – 7 May 1924	Andhra Pradesh	Manyam Veerudu; Commander of Rampa Tribal Rebellion
64	Udham Singh	26 Dec 1899 – 31 Jul 1940	Punjab / UK	Assassinated Michael O'Dwyer at Caxton Hall, London
65	Ashfaqulla Khan	22 Oct 1900 – 19 Dec 1927	Uttar Pradesh	HRA Co-Leader; Kakori Train Action Strategist
66	Komaram Bheem	22 Oct 1901 – 8 Oct 1940	Telangana	Gond Guerrilla; Coined Phrase *"Jal, Jangal, Jameen"*
67	Helen Lepcha	27 Jan 1902 – 18 Aug 1980	Sikkim / West Bengal	Himalayan Labor Strike Mobilizer; Kurseong Escape Link
68	Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay	3 Apr 1903 – 29 Oct 1988	Karnataka / Madras	First Female Legislative Candidate; Salt Pan Defender
69	Tirupur Kumaran	4 Oct 1904 – 11 Jan 1932	Tamil Nadu	Desabandhu Youth Leader; "Kodi Kaatha Kumaran"
70	Lal Bahadur Shastri	2 Oct 1904 – 11 Jan 1966	Uttar Pradesh	Second Prime Minister of India; Coined *"Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"*
71	Kushal Konwar	21 Mar 1905 – 15 Jun 1943	Assam	Individual Satyagrahi Hanged on Falsified Train Sabotage
72	Lakshmi Bai Kelkar	6 July 1905 – 27 Nov	Maharashtra	Founded Rashtriya Sevika Samiti

		1978		Women's Network
73	Haipou Jadonang	10 Jun 1905 – 29 Aug 1931	Manipur	Zeliangrong Naga Anti-Tax Rebellion; Heraka Founder
74	Chandrashekhar Azad	23 Jul 1906 – 27 Feb 1931	Madhya Pradesh / UP	Military Chief of HSRA; Pinned Down at Alfred Park
75	Sukhdev Thapar	15 May 1907 – 23 Mar 1931	Punjab	Naujawan Bharat Sabha Organizer; Brain of HSRA Cells
76	Bhagat Singh	28 Sep 1907 – 23 Mar 1931	Punjab	Saunders Retaliation; Assembly Bomb Propaganda; Martyr
77	Durga Devi Vohra	7 Oct 1907 – 15 Oct 1999	Uttar Pradesh	"Durga Bhabhi"; Managed HSRA Lahore Escape Deception
78	Shivaram Rajguru	24 Aug 1908 – 23 Mar 1931	Maharashtra / Punjab	Core HSRA Target Sniper; Fired Initial Shot on Saunders
79	Aruna Asaf Ali	16 Jul 1909 – 29 Jul 1996	Punjab / Bombay	| Hoisted National Flag at Gowalia Tank Maidan in 1942
80	Accamma Cherian	14 Feb 1909 – 5 May 1982	Kerala	Travancore Palace March Leader; Defied Rifle Volley
81	Batukeshwar Dutt	18 Nov 1910 – 20 Jul 1965	Bengal / Andamans	Accompanied Bhagat Singh in 1929 Smoke Bomb Action
82	Pritilata Waddedar	5 May 1911 – 24 Sep 1932	Bengal / Bangladesh	Led Pahartali European Club Armed Raid; Cyanide Suicide
83	Freda Bedi	5 Feb 1911 – 26 Mar 1977	United Kingdom / Punjab	First British Woman Jailed for Satyagraha Sedition
84	Kalpana Datta	27 Jul 1913 – 8 Feb 1995	Bengal / Bangladesh	Explosives Technician for Chittagong Armoury Cells

85	Captain Lakshmi Sahgal	24 Oct 1914 – 23 Jul 2012	Tamil Nadu / Singapore	Commander of All-Female INA Rani of Jhansi Regiment
86	Rani Gaidinliu	26 Jan 1915 – 17 Feb 1993	Manipur / Nagaland	Naga Tribal Guerrilla Leader (Arrested at Age 13)
87	Tara Rani Srivastava	Died Aug 1942	Bihar	Quit India; Raised Flag over Siwan Station over Husband
88	Usha Mehta	25 Mar 1920 – 11 Aug 2000	Gujarat / Bombay	Established Underground Secret Congress Radio (1942)
89	Kanaklata Barua	22 Dec 1924 – 20 Sep 1942	Assam	Mrityu Bahini (Death Army) Teenage Martyr (Age 17)
90	Udaji Chamar	Died 10 Jun 1857	Awadh (UP)	Subaltern Tree Sniper during Siege of Sikandar Bagh
91	Potti Sreeramulu	16 Mar 1901 – 15 Dec 1952	Andhra Pradesh	Gandhian Ground Worker; 58-day Fast-unto-Death
| **92**	Karnad Sadashiva Rao	1881 – 9 Jan 1937	Karnataka	Financed Coastal Satyagrahas to Absolute Poverty
93	Umabai Kundapur	1892 – 1992	Karnataka	Managed 1942 Hubli Underground Safehouse Sanctuary
94	Kotwal Dhan Singh Gurjar	Died 4 Jul 1857	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut Chief of Police who unlocked Garrison Gates
95	George Joseph	5 Nov 1887 – 5 Mar 1938	Kerala / Tamil Nadu	*The Independent* Editor; Criminal Tribes Act Defense
96	Ka Phan Nonglait	Died c. 1850	Meghalaya	Anglo-Khasi Weapon Subversion Agent
97	Matmur Jamoh	Died 14 May 1912	Arunachal Pradesh	Adi Tribal Uprising; Executed Officer Williamson

98	Kushal Konwar	21 Mar 1905 – 15 Jun 1943	Assam	Only Satyagrahi Hanged in Final Phase of Quit India
99	Lakshmi Bai Kelkar	6 July 1905 – 27 Nov 1978	Maharashtra	Founded Rashtriya Sevika Samiti Women's Network
100	Tara Rani Srivastava	Died August 1942	Bihar	Raised Flag over Siwan Station over Husband's Body

1. Rani Velu Nachiyar (3 January 1730 – 25 December 1796)

- **Early Life and Royal Formation**: Born as the only daughter of King Chellamuthu Vijayaragunatha Sethupathi and Queen Sakandhimuthal of the Ramnad Kingdom in Tamil Nadu. Because the royal couple had no male heir, Nachiyar was raised with the privileges and expectations of a crown prince. She was systematically trained in *silambam* (traditional staff fighting), archery, horse riding, valari, and multiple martial arts. Highly educated, she became a skilled polyglot, mastering French, English, and Urdu alongside her native Tamil.
- **The Conflict and Exile**: In 1746, she married King Muthuvaduganathaperiya Udaiyathevar of the Sivaganga Kingdom. Her life changed drastically in 1772 when British East India Company (EIC) battalions under Bon Jour joined forces with the treacherous Nawab of Arcot to launch a surprise attack on the Kalayar Kovil Palace. Her husband was killed in the battle. Nachiyar managed to escape into the dense jungles with her young daughter, Vellachi. She spent eight grueling years in political exile at Virupakshi near Dindigul under the protection of Gopal Nayaker and Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore, while quietly raising an underground military network.
- **Military Rebound and the Suicide Strike**: Armed with 5,000 cavalry and infantry provided by Hyder Ali, Nachiyar launched a sophisticated counter-offensive in 1780 to reclaim Sivaganga. Recognizing that the EIC held overwhelming firepower inside the fort, she designed a brilliant intelligence strategy. She formed an all-female combat wing called the *Udaiyaal Brigade* (named after her adopted daughter who died refusing to betray Nachiyar's location). On the day of the Vijayadashami festival, her commander-in-chief, Kuyili, snuck into the fort, doused herself completely in ghee, lit herself on fire, and walked directly into the primary EIC ammunition storage vault. The resulting explosion destroyed the garrison’s weapon cache. Nachiyar's forces stormed the defenceless fort, routing the EIC and reclaiming her sovereign throne. She ruled Sivaganga until her peaceful passing in 1796.

2. Maruthu Pandiyar Brothers (Periya Marudhu: 1748 – 24 October 1801; Chinna Marudhu: 1753 – 24 October 1801)

- **Rise through the Ranks**: Born in Narikkudi (modern Virudhunagar district, Tamil Nadu) to Mookiah Palaniappan Servai, the brothers Periya Marudhu (the elder) and Chinna Marudhu (the younger) were exceptional athletes and military technicians. They entered into the service of the Sivaganga royal court and quickly rose to become the most trusted military commanders under King Muthuvaduganatha Devar. Following the King's death and during Rani Velu Nachiyar’s eight years of exile, the brothers operated as her primary guerrilla commanders, playing an indispensable role in planning the 1780 fort siege that restored her to power.
- **The Tiruchirappalli Proclamation**: Following Rani Nachiyar's death, the brothers assumed the de facto administrative and military leadership of Sivaganga. As the EIC began aggressively tightening its fiscal grip through the exploitative Palayakarrar (Poligar) system, the brothers conceptualized a macro-alliance. They united localized chieftains across southern India—stretching from Malabar to Tirunelveli—into a unified insurgent front. In June 1801, Chinna Marudhu issued the historic *Tiruchirappalli Proclamation* from the ramparts of the Srirangam Temple. This was one of the earliest recorded public manifestos that explicitly looked past caste and religious boundaries, calling on all native Indians to launch an armed strike to clear out foreign commercial rulers.
- **The Second Polegar War and Execution**: The EIC responded by declaring martial law and diverting seasoned troops from Bengal and Malabar to initiate the Second Polegar War. The brothers launched a highly effective jungle guerrilla campaign, using hit-and-run strikes to cut off EIC supply trains. However, superior British artillery and the betrayal of local collaborators who leaked their secret hideouts eventually turned the tide. After a bloody final stand at the Cholapuram jungles, the wounded brothers were captured. On 24 October 1801, the EIC publicly hanged the Maruthu Pandiyar brothers along with their families from the ramparts of the Tiruppathur Fort, bringing a tragic end to early southern resistance.

3. Pazhassi Raja (3 January 1753 – 30 November 1805)

- **The Crown and Malabar Exploitation**: Born as Kerala Varma into the royal lineage of the Kottayam dynasty in North Malabar (modern Kerala). He came to be known universally as *Pazhassi Raja* or the *Lion of Kerala*. When Hyder Ali invaded Malabar, Raja stayed behind to protect his people, establishing deep bonds with the indigenous communities. However, following the Treaties of Seringapatam in 1792, the EIC took direct administrative control of Malabar and completely bypassed Raja's authority. They leased the collection of land revenues to his estranged uncle and instituted extortionate, aggressive tax structures that pushed the agrarian peasantry into deep destitution.
- **The Cotiote War and Jungle Warfare**: Raja fiercely rejected the validity of foreign commercial tax extraction. He retreated into the dense, mountainous tropical rainforests of Wayanad, sparking the protracted *Cotiote War*. He organized an incredibly diverse guerrilla army comprising elite Nair warriors, Kurichiya tribal archers, and local Mappila Muslims. Using his intimate knowledge of the rugged terrain, Raja systematically cut off EIC communication routes and ambushed moving infantry columns. His tactical execution was so effective that British forces under Arthur Wellesley (who later became the Duke of Wellington and defeated Napoleon) spent years bogged down in the Malabar jungles, suffering heavy losses.
- **The Final Stand**: The EIC finally changed strategies by bringing in a specialized counter-insurgency police force led by Thomas Hervey Baber, which systematically isolated the Wayanad passes and choked the supply of salt and grain to the hills. On 30 November 1805, an EIC detachment cornered Raja near a stream bank along the Karnataka border. Rather than allow himself to be taken alive and paraded as a colonial trophy, Raja fought until his final breath, falling in a dense exchange of musketry, ensuring his legacy as an unbroken monarch.

4. Tilka Manjhi (11 February 1750 – 13 January 1785)

- **The Santhal Vanguard**: Born as Jabra Paharia into a Santhal tribal family in the Tilakpur village of modern Sultanganj, Bihar. From his youth, Manjhi witnessed the aggressive encroachment of the EIC's revenue systems into the ancestral forest lands of the Santhal and Paharia communities. The British administration introduced exploitative tax structures and zamindari middle-men who manipulated tribal debt to seize native lands, destroying their self-sufficient barter economy.
- **The Cleveland Assassination**: Manjhi began organizing regular community assemblies to stoke political awareness among the tribal clans. He advocated for a total refusal to pay taxes to the company. In 1784, he launched the historic *Santhal Hul* precursor revolt. Armed primarily with traditional bows, arrows, and specialized battle-axes, his tribal fighters targeted colonial treasury outposts. The flashpoint occurred when Augustus Cleveland, the EIC Collector of Bhagalpur who was attempting to pacify the hills through deceptive divide-and-rule tribal policies, rode through the region. Manjhi climbed a large tree canopy, waited for Cleveland's carriage, and shot a poisoned arrow through his chest, killing him.
- **Brutal Suppressions and Hanging**: The EIC responded with absolute martial fury, sending heavy military columns under Sir Eyre Coote to encircle the Tilakpur forests. Manjhi and his followers retreated into the mountains, sustaining a long guerrilla resistance despite facing structural starvation. He was finally captured in an exhausted state after a collaborator leaked his hideout. To strike terror into the hearts of the tribal populations, the British tied Manjhi's body to horses, dragged him for miles to Bhagalpur, and publicly hanged him from a banyan tree on 13 January 1785.

5. Veerapandiya Kattabomman (3 January 1760 – 16 October 1799)

- **The Chieftainship and Fiscal Defiance**: Born to Jagaveera Pandya Kattabomman and Arumugathammal, he became the 47th Palayakarrar (Poligar) of the Panchalankurichi estate in Tamil Nadu in 1790. His administration ran into direct conflict with the EIC when the company obtained revenue collection rights from the Nawab of Arcot. Kattabomman flatly refused to recognize the company's sovereignty or pay land taxes, famously arguing: *"The sky showers rain, the earth yields grain, why should we pay tribute to a foreign merchant?"*
- **The Jackson Standoff and Fort Siege**: In September 1798, EIC Collector Alan Jackson ordered Kattabomman to meet him in Ramnad to settle tax arrears. Jackson deliberately forced the chieftain to travel for 23 days through various towns before keeping him standing for three hours in an attempt to humiliate him. Sensing a trap, Kattabomman fought his way out of the palace, killing a British officer in the escape. This sparked open war. In September 1799, a massive EIC column under Major Bannerman besieged the Panchalankurichi Fort. Kattabomman directed a fierce defense of the perimeter walls, successfully repelling the initial infantry charges before heavy British artillery breached the main gates.
- **Capture and Kayathar Hanging**: Kattabomman escaped into the Pudukottai forests to reorganize his forces. However, Vijaya Raghunatha Tondaiman, the King of Pudukottai who was aligned with the EIC, captured Kattabomman and handed him over to the British. Following a summary military trial on 16 October 1799 where he refused to bow or beg for mercy, Kattabomman was publicly hanged from a tamarind tree at Kayathar, cementing his place as an immortal folk icon of southern resistance.

6. Velu Thampi Dalawa (6 May 1765 – 29 March 1809)

- **The Prime Ministership**: Born Velayudhan Chempakaraman Thampi in Kalkulam, Travancore (modern Kanyakumari district). He rose to prominence through his absolute intolerance for administrative corruption, eventually being appointed as the *Dalawa* (Prime Minister) of the Princely State of Travancore under King Bala Rama Varma. Initially, Dalawa maintained working ties with the EIC through a subsidiary alliance system. However, relations collapsed when the British Resident, Colonel Colin Macaulay, began aggressively meddling in internal state affairs and demanding exorbitant financial subsidies to fund company troops.
- **The Kundara Proclamation**: Recognizing that the EIC was planning a soft annexation of Travancore by engineering financial debts, Dalawa broke ties and called for an all-out revolt. On 11 January 1809, he issued the legendary *Kundara Proclamation*. This public text was read out to thousands of citizens, warning them that British rule would systematic dismantle local religious customs, drain the native economy, and reduce the free population to structural slavery. The proclamation sparked an instant pan-regional insurrection, with thousands of Nair soldiers and common citizens surging forward to attack British military camps at Quilon and Cochin.
- **The Final Temple Refuge**: The EIC retaliated by bringing in major reinforcements from Madras and Bombay, outmanoeuvring the Travancore state army through superior firepower. As British forces closed in on the capital, the King sued for peace and ordered the arrest of Dalawa. Pursued by company troops and state forces, a wounded Dalawa retreated to the Mannadi Temple. To ensure the British would never capture him alive or parade his body, he ordered his brother to end his life, dying on 29 March 1809. The British hung his body on a gibbet in public, an act that provoked massive regional anger.

7. Kittur Chennamma (14 November 1778 – 21 February 1829)

- **The Lineage Crisis**: Born in Kakati (modern Belagavi district, Karnataka), she was trained in horse riding, sword fighting, and

archery from childhood. She married Raja Mallasarja of the Desai dynasty, becoming the Queen of Kittur. Her husband died in 1816, and her only biological son passed away shortly after in 1824. Facing a severe succession crisis, Chennamma adopted a young boy named Shivalingappa and declared him the rightful heir to the Kittur throne.

- **Defying the Pre-Doctrine Policy**: The EIC, under the local administration of the Dharwad Collectorate led by St. John Thackeray, invoked an early precursor to the Doctrine of Lapse. Thackeray flatly refused to recognize the validity of the adoption, locked down the treasury, and positioned troops to annex Kittur directly. Chennamma sent formal letters to the Governor of Bombay pleading the legality of her state's customs, but they were rejected. She instantly mobilized her state army, calling on her people to defend their autonomy.
- **Battlefield Victory and Fort Fall**: On 23 October 1804, Thackeray marched his forces into Kittur to enforce the annexation. Chennamma led her forces out in person; her troops fought with absolute ferocity, completely repelling the British column and killing Thackeray on the battlefield. This rare, striking early defeat stunned the EIC. The company responded by sending a massive, reinforced army from Bombay and Madras equipped with heavy siege artillery. Chennamma defended the Kittur Fort for several days until internal traitors sabotaged her primary gunpowder stocks, mixing them with mud and cow dung. The fort fell in December 1824. Captured by the British, she was imprisoned at Bailhongal Fort, where she spent her final five years writing letters of resistance until her passing on 21 February 1829.

8. Veerasurendra Sai (23 January 1809 – 28 February 1884)

- **The Rightful Throne Intercepted**: Born in Khinda, Odisha, Sai was a direct descendant of Madhukar Sai, the fourth King of the Chauhan dynasty of Sambalpur. When the ruler of Sambalpur passed away without a direct male heir in 1827, the EIC ignored Sai’s legitimate claim to the throne. Instead, they installed a puppet ruler who agreed to heavy British financial and political control, sparking widespread outrage among local tribal zamindars and peasants.

- **Guerrilla Front across Decades**: Sai organized a massive armed revolt, launching lightning strikes against British outposts. He was captured in 1840 and sentenced to life imprisonment in Hazaribagh Jail. However, during the historic 1857 Uprising, mutinous sepoys broke open Hazaribagh Jail, liberating Sai. He immediately returned to the Sambalpur region, raised an army of tribal fighters, and launched a highly sophisticated guerrilla campaign from the dense Barapahar hills. Long after the 1857 mutiny had been completely crushed in northern India, Sai kept his independent front active, routinely cutting down British supply lines and making the region ungovernable for the Raj.
- **The Longest Confinement**: Unable to capture him in open combat, the British administration used administrative tricks, offering amnesty before executing a surprise arrest of Sai and his core family in 1864. He was deported to the isolated Asirgarh Fort in Madhya Pradesh. Sai spent a cumulative total of 37 years behind bars, going completely blind in captivity before his passing on 28 February 1884, representing one of the longest records of political incarceration in anti-colonial history.

9. Sangolli Rayanna (15 August 1796 – 26 January 1831)

- **The Underground Vanguard**: Rayanna was born in Sangolli, Karnataka, and rose to become the chief of the army under the Kittur Kingdom. He fought alongside Rani Chennamma during the 1780 battles against the EIC. Following the fall of the Kittur Fort and the Queen's capture in late 1824, Rayanna refused to surrender. He went underground into the deep forests, swearing a life oath to liberate Kittur and install the adopted prince, Shivalingappa, on the throne.
- **Peasant Strikes and Treasury Ambushes**: Rayanna built a highly mobile guerrilla strike-force consisting primarily of displaced local peasants and shepherds. He trained them in hit-and-run tactics, routinely ambushing EIC moving treasuries, burning down colonial court records, and destroying company administrative offices across the Kittur region. He successfully created a parallel native administration that defied British rule.
- **Betrayal and Banyan Tree Gallows**: The EIC realized that Rayanna could not be defeated in open combat due to the immense intelligence support he received from local villages. They leveraged

local landlords and internal traitors to trap him. In April 1830, while Rayanna was bathing unarmed in a river, he was ambushed and captured. He was tried by a summary military commission and sentenced to death. On 26 January 1831, Rayanna was hanged from a large banyan tree at Nandagad, singing patriotic songs and declaring that he would return in his next life to clear out foreign rulers.

10. Sidho Murmu (1825 – 5 December 1855) & Kanhu Murmu (1828 – 23 February 1856)

- **The Santhal Hul Breakdown**: The brothers Sidho and Kanhu were born in Bhagnadihi (modern Jharkhand) and emerged as the preeminent leaders of the historic *Santhal Hul* (Rebellion) of 1855. The Santhal tribal communities faced extreme economic destitution due to the introduction of the EIC's permanent land settlements. Corrupt revenue collectors and money-lenders (known as *dikus*) manipulated legal contracts to systematically trap the illiterate tribals in generational debt, seizing their ancestral lands and turning them into forced laborers.
- **Mobilization and Open Insurrection**: On 30 June 1855, Sidho and Kanhu mobilized a historic assembly of over 10,000 Santhal tribals at Bhagnadihi, declaring a complete break from British sovereignty and the establishment of an independent Santhal regime. Armed primarily with traditional bows, poisoned arrows, drums, and battle-axes, the brothers organized their forces into highly coordinated combat cells. They launched a massive insurrection, successfully dismantling British police stations, burning down rail construction projects, and clearing out colonial administrators across the Rajmahal hills.
- **Artillery Massacres and Execution**: The EIC responded with absolute martial brutality, mobilizing massive infantry regiments equipped with heavy artillery and advanced musketry to suppress the uprising. In the uneven battles that followed, over 15,000 Santhal tribals were killed as they bravely charged British cannon lines with bows and arrows. Sidho was cornered and captured after a long siege, being executed on 5 December 1855. Kanhu was captured weeks later and publicly hanged at his native village of Bhagnadihi on 23 February 1856, marking a monumental milestone in subaltern indigenous resistance.

11. Tantia Tope (1814 – 18 April 1859)

- **The Military Mind of Bithoor**: Born as Ramchandra Pandurang Yeolekar in a Marathi Brahmin family at Yeola near Nashik. He moved to Bithoor where his father joined the exiled court of Peshwa Baji Rao II. There, Tope grew up in close association with Nana Sahib, developing an advanced understanding of military tactics, weapon deployment, and logistics. When the great 1857 Uprising broke out, Tope emerged as one of the premier military generals of the revolutionary forces.
- **The Kanpur Campaign and Jhansi Relief**: Tope directed the recapture of Kanpur from British forces and established tight tactical control over the region. When he received intelligence that Rani Lakshmibai was completely encircled by Sir Hugh Rose's forces at Jhansi, Tope marched a relief army of 20,000 soldiers to break the siege. Though outmanoeuvred by the superior tactical positioning of the British lines, his diversionary assault created the window of opportunity that allowed Lakshmibai to escape from the fort. He later joined forces with her to execute a brilliant surprise operation that captured the fortress city of Gwalior.
- **Jungle Guerrilla Front and Betrayal**: Following the fall of Gwalior and the death of Rani Lakshmibai, Tope refused to surrender. For over a year, he conducted a highly mobile guerrilla campaign across Central India. Moving with incredible speed through rugged terrain, his small cavalry unit routinely out-marched and confused much larger British pursuit columns. He was finally betrayed by a trusted associate, Raja Man Singh of Narwar, while sleeping in the forest. Captured by British infantry, he was court-martialled and calmly walked to the gallows at Shivpuri on 18 April 1859.

12. Begum Hazrat Mahal (c. 1820 – 7 April 1879)

- **The Royal Rejection of Annexation**: Born as Muhammadi Khanum in Faizabad, she rose from a modest background to become a prominent consort to Wajid Ali Shah, the final Nawab of the wealthy state of Awadh. She took the title *Hazrat Mahal* upon the birth of her son, Birjis Qadr. In 1856, the EIC annexed Awadh under the pretext of alleged misgovernance and exiled the Nawab to Calcutta. Hazrat Mahal fiercely rejected the validity of the

annexation and refused to leave the capital city of Lucknow with her son.

- **Commanding the 1857 Resistance**: When the 1857 Uprising erupted across northern India, Lucknow became one of its most intense combat zones. Hazrat Mahal crowned her minor son as the rightful King of Awadh and took de facto military and administrative control of the resistance. She demonstrated exceptional leadership, successfully uniting Hindu and Muslim landowners (*talukdars*) under a single command. She personally coordinated the prolonged siege of the British Residency and supervised the defense fortifications of Lucknow.
- **Uncompromising Exile in Nepal**: When British forces under Sir Colin Campbell finally recaptured Lucknow in March 1858, Hazrat Mahal flatly rejected an offer of amnesty and a massive pension extended by the British Crown. Instead, she retreated into the deep rural countryside to sustain a guerrilla front before crossing into the difficult terrain of Nepal. The Rana government granted her asylum in Kathmandu, where she spent the remainder of her life in proud poverty, refusing to ever set foot in British-ruled India until her passing on 7 April 1879.

13. Bhima Nayak (1840 – 29 December 1876)

- **The Nimar Tribal Vanguard**: Born into a Bhil tribal family in the Barwani district of modern Madhya Pradesh. He grew up to become a prominent leader of the Bhil community in the rugged Nimar region along the Narmada River. When the 1857 Uprising began shaking British rule, Nayak realized it was a historic opportunity to end the colonial exploitation of tribal resources and forest rights.
- **The Robin Hood of Satpura**: Nayak raised a highly disciplined army of over 10,000 tribal fighters, establishing a parallel administration across the Satpura hills. He specialized in ambushing EIC moving treasuries and weapon shipments passing through the key mountain ghats. He systematically distributed the captured food and wealth to local peasant communities that were facing severe structural famines due to company policies. His hit-and-run tactics completely halted British administrative movements across the region.
- **The Penal Colony Dead**: The British administration launched a long, multi-regiment hunt to capture him, but Nayak evaded them

for nearly a decade due to his intimate knowledge of the forest paths and the total intelligence protection he received from tribal villages. He was finally captured in 1867 after an informant leaked his resting location. Tried for waging war against the Crown, he was deported to the isolated penal colony in the Andaman Islands, where he was executed on 29 December 1876.

14. Mangal Pandey (19 July 1827 – 8 April 1857)

- **The Barrackpore Parade Mutiny**: Born into a high-caste Brahmin family in the Nagwa village of modern Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh. In 1849, he enlisted as a sepoy in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry regiment of the EIC army stationed at Barrackpore near Calcutta. In early 1857, deep unrest spread through the native regiments over verified reports that the cartridges for the new Enfield rifle were greased with a mixture of cow and pig fat, which required sepoys to bite them open before loading—an act that directly violated the core religious principles of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- **The Outbreak and Execution**: On 29 March 1857, Pandey, in a state of intense political and religious outrage, marched onto the Barrackpore parade ground in open mutiny. He was equipped with a loaded musket and called on his fellow sepoys to rise up against their officers to protect their faith. When Sergeant-Major Hewson and Lieutenant Baugh rode out to disarm him, Pandey fired, wounding Baugh’s horse and engaging in close hand-to-hand combat. When the British commanding officer ordered the native officer, Jemadar Ishwari Prasad, to arrest Pandey, Prasad flatly refused. Surrounded by British units, Pandey attempted suicide by shooting himself in the chest but survived the wound. He was court-martialled and hanged on 8 April 1857, while Jemadar Prasad was executed weeks later. Pandey's act served as the immediate spark that triggered the great 1857 Uprising.

15. Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi (19 November 1828 – 18 June 1858)

- **The Refusal of Annexation**: Born as Manikarnika Tambe in Varanasi, she grew up in Bithoor where her father served in the Peshwa's court. She was educated alongside boys, mastering

horsemanship, archery, and sword fighting. In 1842, she married Maharaja Gangadhar Rao of Jhansi, taking the name Lakshmibai. Their infant son passed away, and they adopted a boy named Damodar Rao shortly before the Maharaja's death in 1853. Governor-General Lord Dalhousie invoked the Doctrine of Lapse to annex Jhansi, rejecting the adoption. Lakshmibai fiercely declared: *"Main apni Jhansi nahi doongi"* (I will not surrender my Jhansi).

- **The Siege and Night Escape**: When the 1857 Uprising broke out, she assumed de facto control of Jhansi, raising a small army that included a specialized regiment of women. In March 1858, a British force under Sir Hugh Rose besieged the fort. Lakshmibai directed the perimeter defense personally from the battlements. Despite fierce resistance, British artillery breached the walls after two weeks of fighting. Lakshmibai strapped her young son to her back and executed a dramatic night escape, leaping from the fort walls on horseback.
- **The Final Gwalior Combat**: She rode swiftly to join other rebel commanders, including Tantia Tope. Together, they executed a surprise operation that captured the strategic fortress city of Gwalior from the pro-British Scindia ruler. On 18 June 1858, while defending the city against advancing British cavalry near the Phool Bagh, she was mortally wounded in hand-to-hand combat while dressed as a frontline soldier. General Hugh Rose recorded that she was *"the most dangerous of all rebel leaders."*

16. Jhalkaribai (22 November 1830 – 4 April 1858)

- **Early Life and Combat Induction**: Born into a poor Dalit family of the Koli community in the Bhojla village near Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Raised by her father after her mother's early death, she grew up without formal education but learned woodcraft, horse riding, and spear combat. Her local reputation soared when she killed a wild leopard in the forest using only a wood-cutting axe. She married Puran Singh, a leading artillery marksman in the army of Maharaja Gangadhar Rao. Recognizing her immense physical strength, tactical skill, and striking physical resemblance to Rani Lakshmibai, the Queen inducted her into the *Durga Dal* (the elite women's combat wing of Jhansi).

- **The Supreme Sacrifice at the Battlements**: During the brutal siege of Jhansi by Sir Hugh Rose in March 1858, British forces managed to breach the southern walls due to internal betrayal. As

the enemy forces flooded the streets and the fall of the fort became certain, Jhalkaribai formulated a daring deception plan to save the Queen. She donned the royal armor, wore the signature crown of the Rani, and rode to the frontlines to take command of the remaining palace guards.

- **The Deception and Demise**: Charging directly into the thickest sector of the British lines, she shouted that she was the Queen. This audacious move completely distracted the British command, causing them to concentrate their elite regiments around her while the real Rani Lakshmibai quietly executed a late-night escape over the opposite wall. Jhalkaribai fought with absolute ferocity until she was completely overwhelmed by gunfire, passing away on 4 April 1858. Her sacrifice ensured the continuity of the 1857 leadership.

17. Udaji Chamar (Died 10 June 1857)

- **Subaltern Uprising in Awadh**: Born into a marginalized Dalit community in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Like millions of subaltern peasants, he faced extreme structural discrimination under both the local feudal framework and the expanding fiscal regulations of the EIC. When the great 1857 Uprising broke out in Lucknow, Udaji rejected systemic caste boundaries to volunteer for the revolutionary units raised under the political inspiration of Begum Hazrat Mahal, quickly proving himself a highly disciplined and fearless vanguard fighter.

- **The Sikandar Bagh Defensive Stand**: In November 1857, British forces under Sir Colin Campbell marched to storm Lucknow, targeting the walled palace compound of Sikandar Bagh. Udaji was part of the native unit defending the perimeter. Recognizing that the British troops held an overwhelming advantage in field artillery, Udaji climbed a large, dense pipal tree inside the courtyard before the gates were breached. He equipped himself with an old percussion musket, a large pouch of gunpowder, and plenty of lead balls.

- **The Hidden Sniper**: Operating as a concealed sniper from the high canopy, Udaji waited for British troops to breach the gates. As infantrymen surged into the courtyard, he opened fire, systematically shooting down more than half a dozen frontline British soldiers. His positioning was so well-chosen that it took the

invading troops hours to locate the source of the fire. His position was finally spotted, and a coordinated volley of infantry fire brought him down from the tree on 10 June 1857. His raw combat valor remains a powerful testament to the widespread subaltern participation in the 1857 war.

18. Avantibai Lodhi (25 January 1831 – 20 March 1858)

- **The Regency and Administrative Clash**: Born into a Lodhi family in Mankedi (modern Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh), she was trained in swordplay and horsemanship from childhood. She married King Vikramaditya Singh of Ramgarh. When the King fell severely ill and was declared mentally unfit to govern, the EIC refused to recognize the traditional regency of Queen Avantibai. Instead, they invoked the aggressive *Court of Wards* policy, appointing a British administrator to run the state and locking down the royal treasury.

- **The Mandla Campaign**: Avantibai fiercely rejected this administrative annexation. She threw the British administrator out of the palace and assumed full de facto control of Ramgarh. When the 1857 Uprising began, she raised a highly mobile army of 4,000 fighters from neighboring tribal and peasant communities. In their first major engagement near the village of Sohagpur, her tactical deployment caught the British forces off guard, forcing them to retreat in disarray.

- **The Unbroken End**: The EIC retaliated by declaring martial law and sending a massive army from Jabalpur equipped with modern artillery. Avantibai was forced to abandon her fort and retreat into the dense mountainous jungles of Devharigarh. Surrounded by British infantry columns and running out of ammunition on 20 March 1858, she refused to allow herself to be captured or tried by a colonial court. She pulled her own sword from its scabbard and pierced herself through the chest, dying as an independent ruler.

19. Bir Tikendrajit Singh (29 December 1856 – 13 August 1891)

- **The Palace Crisis**: Born as a prince into the royal family of the independent Kingdom of Manipur. He was an exceptional martial

artist and strategist, eventually rising to become the *Senapati* (commander-in-chief) of the Manipuri military forces. In 1890, a domestic royal succession crisis erupted when King Surachandra was deposed. Tikendrajit backed the new ruler, Kulachandra. The British administration used this internal friction as a pretext to intervene, demanding the right to enforce their own terms on the sovereign state and ordering the immediate exile of Tikendrajit, whom they viewed as a dangerous nationalist.

- **The Anglo-Manipur War**: In March 1891, British Chief Commissioner James Quinton arrived in Imphal with armed troops to execute an unauthorized raid on Tikendrajit's residence. Tikendrajit directed a swift defensive counter-action. His forces repelled the British column, and the top British officials who ordered the violation of protocol were executed. This sparked the formal Anglo-Manipur War.

- **The Imphal Scaffold**: The British Empire launched a multi-pronged invasion, sending major military columns from Assam and Burma to subdue the valley. Tikendrajit retreated into the hills to wage a guerrilla war but was eventually captured after his supplies ran out. Following a highly biased summary trial by a British military commission, he was publicly hanged in Imphal on 13 August 1891. The site is now honored as Bir Tikendrajit Park, and the day is observed across the state as Patriots' Day.

20. Dadabhai Naoroji (4 September 1825 – 30 June 1917)

- **The Macroeconomic Critique**: Born into a poor Gujarati-speaking Parsi family in Bombay. A brilliant academic, he became the first Indian appointed as a professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at Elphinstone College. He moved to London in 1855 to establish a business, which he quickly transformed into a platform for international political lobbying. In his landmark 1901 book *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*, Naoroji articulated the famous **"Drain Theory."** Utilizing rigorous macroeconomic data, he proved that Britain was systematically extracting billions in wealth from India through uncompensated exports, home charges, and administrative remittances, which artificially impoverished the population and triggered massive famines.

- **The First Asian MP**: In 1892, Naoroji made history by becoming the first Indian, and the first person of Asian descent, elected to the British House of Commons, winning the seat of Central Finsbury as a Liberal Party candidate. He used the floor of the imperial parliament to directly attack colonial policies. He was a foundational architect of the Indian National Congress (INC), serving three terms as its National President (1886, 1893, and 1906). At the pivotal 1906 Calcutta session, he formally introduced the official demand for *Swaraj* (Self-Government) into the mainstream political lexicon. He passed away in Bombay at the advanced age of 91, revered as the "Grand Old Man of India."

21. Bhikaji Cama (24 September 1861 – 13 August 1936)

- **The European Underground Network**: Born Bhikaji Rustom Cama into a wealthy and influential Parsi family in Bombay. Highly educated, she married Rustomji Cama, a pro-British lawyer, but her political views led to structural rifts. During the horrific 1896 bubonic plague epidemic in Bombay, she worked tirelessly in relief camps, contracting the disease herself. She survived but was relocated to Europe for advanced medical recovery in 1902. There, she joined hands with radical nationalists like Shyamji Krishna Varma and help fund *India House* in London, becoming a primary publisher of anti-colonial revolutionary literature.

- **The Stuttgart Flag Declaration**: On 22 August 1907, she traveled to Stuttgart, Germany, to attend the International Socialist Conference. Defying British surveillance, she took the stage and unfurled the very first design of the Indian National Flag—a tricolour of green, saffron, and red featuring eight lotuses and the words *Vande Mataram*. She told the global assembly: *"Behold, the flag of independent India is born! It is sanctified by the blood of martyred youths! I call upon you to rise and support the liberation of one-fifth of the human race."* She remained in political exile in France for decades, smuggling weapons and funding revolutionary cells until she was finally permitted to return to her homeland shortly before her passing in August 1936.

22. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (23 July 1856 – 1 August 1920)

- **Mass Political Awakening**: Born Keshav Gangadhar Tilak into a Chitpavan Brahmin family in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. A brilliant mathematician and lawyer, he co-founded the *New English School* and Fergusson College in Pune, believing that national education was the core weapon against colonial rule. He launched two radical newspapers—*Kesari* (written in Marathi) and *Mahratta* (written in English)—using them to fiercely criticize the British administration during famines and plagues. To bypass strict British laws banning political assemblies, Tilak creatively transformed the private, domestic *Ganesh Chaturthi* and *Shivaji Jayanti* celebrations into massive public festivals, using them as legal covers to spread nationalist ideas among the working classes.

- **The Mandalay Sedition Imprisonment**: His famous formulation —*"Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it"*—became the anthem of the masses. In 1908, he was arrested for sedition for publishing editorials defending revolutionary bomb attacks in Bengal. Sentenced to six years of transportation, he was sent to the isolated Mandalay Prison in Burma. In prison, he authored the *Gita Rahasya*, a monumental commentary on the Bhagavad Gita, arguing that the text mandates selfless, political action over passive renunciation. Released in 1914, he founded the All India Home Rule League alongside Annie Besant to demand self-government. He passed away in Bombay in August 1920, just as Gandhi was launching the mass Non-Cooperation Movement.

23. Bipin Chandra Pal (7 November 1858 – 20 May 1932)

- **The Swadeshi Trinity**: Born in Poil village (modern Sylhet, Bangladesh) into a wealthy Kayastha family. A visionary journalist, educator, and orator, he turned his literary talents to politics, joining the INC in 1886. Alongside Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lala Lajpat Rai, he formed the fiery **Lal-Bal-Pal** triumvirate. This radical faction split the Congress from its older, moderate leadership, which they criticized as practicing a futile "politics of petitions."

- **The Agitation and Boycott**: During the intense anti-partition agitation of Bengal in 1905, Pal emerged as the preeminent public face of the *Swadeshi* movement. Through his journals, including *New India* and *Bande Mataram*, he popularized the concept of total economic boycott of British manufactured goods and the immediate adoption of native products (*Swadeshi*). His powerful public speeches across the country inspired millions to burn foreign cloth and build independent national schools, effectively transforming the independence struggle from an elite debate into a genuine, popular mass movement. He spent a year in prison for refusing to testify against Aurobindo Ghosh, remaining an independent thinker until his death in Calcutta in 1932.

24. Lala Lajpat Rai (28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928)

- **The Financial and Educational Front**: Born in Dhudike, Punjab, into a family with deep reformist traditions. A highly successful lawyer, he dedicated his wealth to building national infrastructure, co-founding the *Punjab National Bank* and the *Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) Schools* to provide independent education. He joined the radical wing of the Congress, serving as the third pillar of the **Lal-Bal-Pal** triumvirate. In 1907, he was deported without trial to Mandalay, Burma, for organizing massive agrarian protests against unfair British land revenue laws in Punjab.

- **The Fatal Simon Commission Protest**: He traveled extensively across the United States during WWI, founding the Home Rule League of America in New York to build global support for Indian independence. In October 1928, the all-British Simon Commission arrived in Lahore. Rai led a massive, peaceful black-flag demonstration at the railway station under the chant *"Simon Go Back."* Police Superintendent James Scott ordered a brutal lathi charge to clear the crowd, and Rai was struck repeatedly across the chest. He stood his ground and declared: *"The blows struck at me today will be the last nails in the coffin of the British Empire."* He succumbed to his internal chest injuries on 17 November 1928, an event that directly motivated Bhagat Singh to execute his revolutionary retaliation.

25. Gopal Krishna Gokhale (9 May 1866 – 19 February 1915)

- **Constitutional agitation**: Born into a poor Brahmin family in Kotluk, Maharashtra, he was among the first generation of Indians to receive a full Western-style university education. A brilliant professor of history and economics at Fergusson College, he rose to become the preeminent leader of the Congress's moderate wing. Gokhale argued that constitutional agitation, rigorous budgetary analysis, and gradual administrative reform within legislative frameworks offered the surest and least disruptive path to self-rule.

- **The Servants of India Society**: In 1905, he founded the *Servants of India Society*, requiring its members to take a lifelong vow of absolute poverty and dedicated service to educate down-trodden and marginalized communities. He served on the Imperial Legislative Council, using his platform to deliver meticulously researched critiques of British taxation, salt laws, and famine policies. He served as the primary political mentor to a young Mahatma Gandhi, traveling to South Africa to support his campaigns. Upon Gandhi's return to India in 1915, Gokhale ordered him to spend his first year traveling the country quietly by train to truly understand the masses before entering active politics. Gokhale passed away in Pune in February 1915.

26. Mahatma Gandhi (2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948)

- **The Evolution of Satyagraha**: Born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in Porbandar, Gujarat, he trained as a barrister in London. His political awakening occurred in South Africa after he was forcibly ejected from a first-class train carriage at Pietermaritzburg for his race. Over 21 years in South Africa, he developed his philosophy of *Satyagraha* (non-violent resistance), organizing the Indian community against discriminatory identity passes. Returning to India in 1915, he launched localized agrarian campaigns in Champaran (1917) and Kheda (1918). Following the horrific 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, he assumed effective leadership of the INC, transforming it into a mass movement.

- **The National Fronts**: He launched three massive nationwide struggles: the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), the historic 240-mile Dandi Salt March (1930) which shattered the British salt monopoly, and the Quit India Movement (1942) under the directive *"Do or Die."* He spent years in various prisons, including the Aga Khan Palace. He spent his final months walking through the riot-torn villages of Bengal, fasting to stop the communal slaughter caused by Partition. He was assassinated on 30 January 1948 by Nathuram Godse.

27. Matangini Hazra (19 October 1870 – 29 September 1942)

- **The Domestic to Political Transition**: Born into a poor peasant family in the Hogla village near Midnapore, Bengal. Widowed at an early age and left without formal education or financial resources, her life was transformed when she was exposed to Gandhi's civil disobedience message in 1905. She abandoned her quiet domestic life to dedicate herself to the freedom struggle, spinning *khadi* cloth daily and organizing localized women's picketing units against British opium and liquor shops. Her absolute devotion to Gandhian principles earned her the popular moniker *"Gandhi Buri"* (Old Lady Gandhi) across Bengal.

- **The Quit India Procession and Martyrdom**: In September 1942, during the height of the Quit India Movement, the 72-year-old Hazra took command of a massive, peaceful procession comprising thousands of rural women. Their objective was to march through Midnapore and take control of the Tamluk Police Station to declare a free native administration. As the unarmed crowd reached the town limits, British military units blocked the path and opened fire. Eyewitness accounts record that Hazra stepped to the front of the lines, holding the national flag high. She was shot three times—in both hands and the forehead—but continued to march forward, keeping the tricolour upright and chanting *Vande Mataram* until she collapsed dead on the road.

28. Sri Aurobindo Ghosh (15 August 1872 – 5 December 1950)

- **The Radical Intellectual**: Born in Calcutta, he was educated at St. Paul's School, London, and King's College, Cambridge. He deliberately disqualified himself from the Indian Civil Service by failing the horse-riding test, rejecting a career under the Crown. Returning to India, he became a radical leader of the nationalist movement in Bengal. Through his fiery editorials in the journal *Bande Mataram*, Aurobindo became one of the earliest prominent leaders to explicitly demand complete independence (*Purna Swaraj*) and advocate for armed resistance and the boycott of British institutions.

- **The Spiritual Evolution**: In 1908, he was arrested in connection with the Alipore Bomb Case and spent a year in solitary confinement as an undertrial prisoner inside Alipore Jail. During this incarceration, he underwent a deep spiritual transformation. Following his brilliant legal defense and acquittal by Chittaranjan Das, he withdrew completely from active political life in 1910, relocating to French-ruled Pondicherry. There, he established the internationally renowned Sri Aurobindo Ashram, dedicating the remainder of his life to human evolution and spiritual liberation.

29. Chidambaram Pillai (V.O.C.) (5 September 1872 – 18 November 1936)

- **Shattering the Maritime Monopoly**: Born Vallinayagam Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai in Ottapidaram, Tamil Nadu, into an elite family of lawyers. A highly successful criminal lawyer himself, he joined the radical wing of the Congress under Tilak's inspiration. In 1906, Pillai executed a unique act of economic defiance by founding the *Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company*, directly challenging the absolute monopoly held by the British India Steam Navigation Company. He raised capital from native merchants and purchased two large ships—the *SS Gallia* and *SS Lavo*—to run regular services between Tuticorin and Colombo.

- **Rigorous Imprisonment and Financial Ruin**: His maritime venture was so successful that it severely dented British trade revenues, drawing intense imperial hostility. In 1908, Pillai was

arrested on charges of sedition for organizing a massive labor strike at the British-owned Coral Mills. He was sentenced to an extraordinary double life imprisonment (40 years). While held in Coimbatore Jail, he was subjected to brutal hard labor, including being yoked to a heavy stone oil press in place of oxen. Released in 1912 due to public pressure, his legal license was revoked, and his shipping company was forcibly liquidated. He spent his remaining years in severe financial destitution, continuing his union organizing until his passing in Tuticorin on 18 November 1936.

30. Tanguturi Prakasam (23 August 1872 – 20 May 1957)

- **The Andhra Kesari**: Born in Vinavarini Palem village, Andhra Pradesh. He trained as a barrister in London and built an extremely lucrative practice in Madras. Influenced by the non-cooperation movement, he abandoned his wealth, shut down his practice, and donated his property to the national cause, launching the nationalist Telugu newspaper *Swarajya*.

- **Baring the Chest to the Volley**: In February 1928, the Simon Commission arrived in Madras. The local administration imposed strict martial bans on protests and ordered police to fire on demonstrators. When a young protester was shot dead by police near Parry's Corner, a furious Prakasam marched to the frontlines. Armed police pointed their rifles at him, warning him to stop. Prakasam tore open his shirt, bared his chest to the gun barrels, and shouted: *"Shoot me if you have the courage! Fire on me first!"* Stunned by his raw bravery, the police forces lowered their weapons and retreated, earning him the permanent title *Andhra Kesari* (The Lion of Andhra). He later served as the first Chief Minister of the newly formed Andhra State in 1953.

31. Kumaran Asan (12 April 1873 – 16 January 1924)

- **The Renaissance Poet**: Born N. Kumaran Asan in Kayikkara, Kerala, into an Ezhava family facing severe caste disabilities. He became a primary disciple of the great social reformer Sree Narayana Guru. Asan realized that internal social freedom—specifically the complete destruction of the oppressive caste system and untouchability—was an absolute prerequisite for true national liberation from foreign rule.

- **Literary Subversion**: He revolutionized Malayalam poetry through landmark works like *Chandalabhikshuki*, *Duravastha*, and *Karuna*, using his literary genius to preach human equality, women's liberation, and rationalism. His poems served as the intellectual framework for the regional social renaissance, radicalizing the masses across southwestern India. He served as the first general secretary of the *Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam*, coordinating early civic rights campaigns. His life was cut short when he passed away in a boat accident on 16 January 1924.

32. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October 1875 – 15 December 1950)

- **The Peasant General**: Born into a farming family in Nadiad, Gujarat, he trained through independent study to qualify as a premier defense barrister. He abandoned his highly lucrative Ahmedabad practice after working closely with Gandhi during the 1918 Kheda satyagraha. He achieved his greatest early reputation during the historic 1928 Bardoli Satyagraha. He organized a flawless peasant tax strike against an unjust 22% land revenue increase, completely paralyzing the local British administration and forcing the Raj to roll back the assessments. Grateful farmers gave him the permanent honorific *Sardar* (Leader).

- **The Architectural Integration**: Patel served as Congress President in 1931 and spent years in colonial prisons, including during the 1942 movement. As independent India’s first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, he faced the monumental challenge of a fractured subcontinent surrounded by 565 autonomous princely states. Through a brilliant mix of patient diplomacy, financial incentives, and swift, decisive military action (such as *Operation Polo* in Hyderabad), he integrated every single state within months, forging the geopolitical map of modern India. He passed away in December 1950.

33. Birsa Munda (15 November 1875 – 9 June 1900)

- **The Messianic Rebellion**: Born in Ulihatu, Jharkhand, into a Munda tribal family. He witnessed the systematic destruction of the traditional *Khuntkatti* (tribal joint landholding) system due to the EIC's revenue regulations, which handed ancestral forest lands over to exploitative outside money-lenders (*dikus*). He founded a

new spiritual faith (*Birsait*), claiming a divine mandate to establish *Abua Raj* (Our Kingdom).

- **The Great Tumult**: Between 1897 and 1900, Munda led the historic *Ulgulan* (The Great Tumult) tribal armed rebellion. Armed with bows, arrows, and spears, his tribal guerrilla cells launched coordinated attacks on British police outposts, land brokers, and company offices across the Chhotanagpur plateau, completely unsettling the regional colonial administration. He was finally captured in the Jamkopai forest after an associate leaked his resting location for a cash reward. Munda died under highly mysterious circumstances inside Ranchi Jail on 9 June 1900 at the age of 24.

34. Sarojini Naidu (13 February 1879 – 2 March 1949)

- **The Vanguard Diplomat**: Born Sarojini Chattopadhyay in Hyderabad to a family of Bengali intellectuals. A child prodigy, she won international literary acclaim for her English poetry, earning the title "Nightingale of India." She joined the freedom struggle under Gandhi's inspiration, dedicating her talents to women's education, the franchise, and national sovereignty.

- **The Assault on Dharasana**: In 1925, she made history by becoming the first Indian woman elected as National President of the INC. When Gandhi was arrested during the 1930 Salt Satyagraha, Naidu took direct command of the movement. She led thousands of non-violent volunteers in a historic assault on the Dharasana Salt Works, standing firm at the frontlines as British police unleashed brutal baton blows on her unarmed followers. Imprisoned multiple times, including during the 1942 movement, she became the first female Governor of an independent Indian state (Uttar Pradesh), passing away in office in March 1949.

35. Bagha Jatin (7 December 1879 – 10 September 1915)

- **The Indo-German Conspiracy**: Born Jatindranath Mukherjee in Kayagram (modern Bangladesh), he earned the moniker "Bagha Jatin" after single-handedly killing a Royal Bengal tiger with a small dagger. He rose to become the preeminent leader of the *Jugantar*

party, the central underground revolutionary network in Bengal. During World War I, Jatin conceptualized a daring pan-Indian armed insurrection, coordinating with the international Ghadar Party and the German Empire to import massive shipments of arms and ammunition via neutral ships to disrupt British rail and military infrastructure.

- **The Trench Battle of Balasore**: The conspiracy was intercepted by British intelligence networks. Jatin and four young associates fled to the deep forests of Balasore, Odisha, to await the cargo. Surrounded by a heavily armed detachment of British military police, Jatin refused to retreat. On 9 September 1915, they fought a historic, two-hour trench-style gun battle against overwhelming odds. Mortally wounded during the exchange, Jatin passed away in a hospital on 10 September 1915, famously stating: *"Our steps will fertilize the soil of freedom."*

36. Senapati Bapat (12 November 1880 – 28 November 1967)

- **The Global Bomb Manual**: Born Pandurang Mahadev Bapat in Parner, Maharashtra. A brilliant student, he secured a scholarship to study engineering at Heriot-Watt College in Edinburgh, Scotland. While in Britain, he joined radical anti-colonial groups and was introduced to Russian revolutionaries. Bapat traveled to Paris, where he acquired a highly detailed 40-page manual on bomb-making from a Russian cell. He translated this manual, duplicated it, and smuggled copies back to India to fuel the revolutionary networks of *Abhinav Bharat* and *Jugantar*.

- **The Mulshi Satyagraha and Incarceration**: Upon his return to India, Bapat experienced a tactical shift, aligning with Mahatma Gandhi's mass mobilization methods while maintaining a fiercely militant edge. Between 1921 and 1924, he directed the historic *Mulshi Satyagraha*. This was one of the world's earliest organized environmental and peasant anti-displacement struggles, fighting against a massive hydro-electric dam project backed by corporate interests and the colonial government that threatened to submerge ancestral farmlands. His fearless frontline leadership earned him the permanent title *Senapati* (Commander). He was arrested for his disruptive agitations and spent nearly seven years in rigorous

confinement, surviving to hoist the national flag over Pune on Independence Day in 1947.

37. Subramania Bharati (11 December 1882 – 11 September 1921)

- **The Poet of Nationalism**: Born Chinnaswami Subramania Iyer in Ettayapuram, Tamil Nadu. A child prodigy, he earned the title *Bharati* (one blessed by the Goddess of Learning) from the King of Ettayapuram for his literary genius. Bharati revolutionized Tamil literature by stripping away complex classical forms and using simple, powerful verse to directly stoke patriotic fire among the masses. Working as the assistant editor of *Swadesamitran* and later editing the radical weekly *India*, he introduced political cartoons to South India to expose imperial exploitation.

- **Exile in Pondicherry and Early Demise**: In 1908, when the British government arrested his publisher and launched a crack-down on radical writers, Bharati fled to French-ruled Pondicherry to escape arrest. From exile, he continued to print *India*, smuggling copies across the border. His immortal songs, such as *Achamillai Achamillai* (No Fear, No Fear) and *Aaduvome Palli Paaduvome*, combined calls for national liberation with themes of women's emancipation and the absolute destruction of the caste system. He returned to British India in 1918 and was briefly jailed. His health deteriorated rapidly due to systemic poverty and stress, and he passed away on 11 September 1921 after being struck by a temple elephant in Madras.

38. Madan Lal Dhingra (18 September 1883 – 17 August 1909)

- **The London Strike**: Born into an ultra-wealthy, pro-British family of doctors in Amritsar, Punjab. His family disowned him when he displayed radical nationalist views as a student. He traveled to London in 1906 to study mechanical engineering at University College London. In Britain, he was drawn to *India House*, a crucial international hub for radical Indian students founded by Shyamji Krishna Varma, where he came under the direct ideological influence of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

- **The Assassination of Wyllie**: Deeply enraged by reports of executions, floggings, and arbitrary transportations of young freedom fighters back in India, Dhingra resolved to strike at the heart of the empire. On 1 July 1909, he attended a public gathering at the Imperial Institute in London. Armed with a revolver, he walked up to Sir William Hutt Curzon Wyllie—a high-ranking political aide-de-camp to the Secretary of State for India—and shot him five times at close range, killing him instantly. He did not run away, surrendered immediately, and declared at his trial that his action was a righteous execution to avenge the exploitation of his homeland. Dhingra was hanged at Pentonville Prison on 17 August 1909.

39. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (28 May 1883 – 26 February 1966)

- **The Abhinav Bharat Network**: Born into a Marathi Brahmin family in Bhagur near Nashik, Maharashtra. While studying at Fergusson College in Pune, he founded the secret revolutionary society *Abhinav Bharat*. He traveled to London in 1906 on a scholarship to study law, turning *India House* into an underground operational base. He authored *The Indian War of Independence 1857*, a banned historical text that re-framed the mutiny as India's first coordinated national war against foreign rule.

- **The Marseille Leap and Cellular Prison**: Implicated in the Nashik Conspiracy Case involving the assassination of Collector Jackson, Savarkar was arrested in London in 1910. While being transported to India on the steamship *Morea*, he staged a daring escape by jumping through a narrow ship porthole into the sea at Marseille, France. He swam to the shore but was recaptured by French police in violation of international extradition laws. He was sentenced to double life transportations (50 years) and sent to the notorious Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands, where he endured brutal manual labor. Following his conditional release from house arrest in 1937, he articulated the socio-political ideology of *Hindutva* (Hindu Nationalism), serving as President of the Hindu Mahasabha. He passed away in February 1966.

40. Dr. Rajendra Prasad (3 December 1884 – 28 February 1963)

- **The Academic Giant to Champaran Leader**: Born in Zeradei, Bihar. A brilliant student, he topped the entrance examination of Calcutta University and later earned a Doctorate in Law. He gave up a lucrative legal practice at the Calcutta and Patna High Courts after meeting Mahatma Gandhi during the historic 1917 Champaran satyagraha. Prasad worked closely with Gandhi to document the systemic economic exploitation of indigo farmers by British planters, organizing local logistics for the movement.

- **The Founding Presidency**: He completely dedicated himself to the nationalist cause, taking a central role in organizing the Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India movements, which resulted in multiple prison terms. Prasad served as National President of the Indian National Congress during several internal structural crises (1934, 1939, and 1947). Following independence, his legal expertise led to his election as President of the Constituent Assembly, where he spent nearly three years guiding the complex debates that produced the Constitution of India. In 1950, he became the first President of the Republic of India, serving two consecutive terms until 1962. He passed away in Patna in February 1963.

41. Rash Behari Bose (25 May 1886 – 21 January 1945)

- **The Hardinge Bomb Plot**: Born in Subaldaha, Bengal. A master of administrative subterfuge, he worked as a clerk at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun while quietly coordinating radical cells across northern India. In December 1912, Bose masterminded a daring bomb attack on the Governor-General of India, Lord Hardinge, during a state procession in Delhi to mark the transfer of the capital. Operating in complete disguise, he escaped the city despite a massive police dragnet and returned to his desk in Dehradun the next day to avoid suspicion.

- **The Ghadar Uprising and Japanese Exile**: In 1915, he partnered with the international Ghadar Party to organize a coordinated pan-Indian military mutiny within the British Indian Army. When the

plot was leaked by a traitor, Bose managed to escape to Japan under an assumed identity. In Japan, he married into a prominent family, acquired citizenship, and continued to build global support for the Indian cause. In 1942, he co-founded the Indian Independence League in East Asia and laid the foundational organizational framework for the Indian National Army (INA), handing over supreme command to Subhas Chandra Bose in Singapore in 1943. He passed away in Tokyo in January 1945.

42. Vanchinathan (1886 – 17 June 1911)

- **The Maniyachi Junction Execution**: Born Vanchi Iyer in Shenkottai, Tamil Nadu. He worked as a forest guard before joining the *Bharatha Matha Association*, a secret revolutionary group operating in southern India under the guidance of Nilakanta Brahmachari. The cell was deeply enraged by the aggressive imperial crack-down on V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's nationalist shipping venture and the subsequent brutal suppression of worker strikes in Tuticorin.

- **The Sacrifice**: The group targeted Robert Ashe, the Collector of Tirunelveli, who had been instrumental in dismantling the native shipping line. On 17 June 1911, when Collector Ashe was traveling to Kodaikanal, his train stopped at Maniyachi Junction. Vanchinathan boarded the first-class carriage, pulled out a pocket automatic pistol, and shot Ashe dead. He ran along the platform, entered a station latrine, and shot himself through the mouth to prevent the British police from capturing him alive or interrogating him to uncover the secret network. He left a letter in his pocket stating his action was an execution to defend native independence.

43. Saifuddin Kitchlew (15 January 1888 – 8 February 1963)

- **The Anti-Rowlatt Mobilization**: Born in Amritsar, Punjab. A brilliant academic, he earned his BA from Cambridge University and a PhD from Germany before establishing a successful legal practice in Punjab. Kitchlew became a champion of Hindu-Muslim unity and a fierce opponent of British wartime emergency laws. In March 1919, he emerged as the principal organizer of mass protests against the Rowlatt Act—which permitted the Raj to

imprison political activists without trial—transforming Amritsar into a core node of civic resistance.

- **The Jallianwala Bagh Trigger**: Fearing his immense popularity, the British administration secretly arrested Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal on 10 April 1919 and deported them to an undisclosed location. This arbitrary arrest provoked a massive public gathering at Jallianwala Bagh on 13 April 1919 to protest their deportation, which tragically ended when General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the unarmed crowd. Kitchlew was released after months but remained an uncompromising anti-partition voice, spending his later years working for international peace and secular solidarity until his death in 1963.

44. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (11 November 1888 – 22 February 1958)

- **The Al-Hilal Subversion**: Born in Mecca and raised in Calcutta, he received a rigorous education in classical Islamic theology. At just 24 years old, he launched the Urdu weekly newspaper *Al-Hilal* in 1912. Azad used journalism to introduce a radical theological interpretation, convincing Indian Muslims that their religious duty lay in joining the mainstream secular fight against British imperialism. The Raj banned the paper and interned him multiple times during WWI.

- **The Anchor Against Partition**: At age 35, he became the youngest National President of the Indian National Congress (1923). He was chosen again to serve an extended tenure as Congress President from 1940 to 1946, steering the national movement through the critical negotiations of WWII, the Quit India Movement, and the Simla Conference. He fiercely opposed Jinnah’s two-nation theory, arguing that a partition based on religion would fracture the historic heritage of Muslims in the subcontinent. After independence, he became free India's first Education Minister, establishing the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

45. Jawaharlal Nehru (14 November 1889 – 27 May 1964)

- **The Purna Swaraj Declaration**: Born in Allahabad to the eminent lawyer Motilal Nehru. Educated at Harrow, Trinity College, Cambridge, and trained as a barrister at the Inner Temple in London. Returning to India, he was radicalized by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and rural peasant struggles in Awadh, shifting the Congress toward a modern socialist and internationalist perspective. At the pivotal 1929 Lahore session, Nehru climbed the podium and raised the national tricolour, declaring **Purna Swaraj** (Complete Independence) as the non-negotiable goal of the nation, completely moving past the older moderate demand for dominion status.

- **The Tryst with Destiny**: Nehru spent a cumulative total of nine years across various British prison cells, utilizing his incarcerations to author foundational historical works including *Glimpses of World History* and *The Discovery of India*. On the midnight of 14–15 August 1947, he took office as independent India's first Prime Minister, delivering his iconic *"Tryst with Destiny"* address to the Constituent Assembly. He guided the fledgling democracy through its first seventeen critical years, institutionalizing its secular framework, planning its state-led industrialization, and co-founding the global Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). He passed away in office in May 1964.

46. Khudiram Bose (3 December 1889 – 11 August 1908)

- **The Teenage Martyr**: Born in Midnapore, Bengal. Orphaned at a young age, he was deeply radicalized by the intense public agitations surrounding the 1905 Partition of Bengal. He dropped out of high school to join the *Anushilan Samiti*, a prominent revolutionary underground network. Bose specialized in manufacturing low-intensity explosives, distributing anti-colonial leaflets, and planting bombs near colonial administrative buildings, getting arrested multiple times while still a teenager.

- **The Muzaffarpur Bombing and Hanging**: In April 1908, Bose and a fellow revolutionary, Prafulla Chaki, were assigned by the

cell to execute Douglas Kingsford, a notorious British district judge who had ordered the public flogging of young nationalist students. They tracked Kingsford to Muzaffarpur, Bihar. On the night of 30 April, they hurled a powerful bomb at a carriage exiting the club gates. However, the carriage mistakenly held two British women, Mrs. and Miss Kennedy, who were killed in the blast. Chaki shot himself to avoid capture during the police pursuit. Bose was captured at a railway station, stood trial with complete composure, and walked onto the gallows at Muzaffarpur Central Jail on 11 August 1908 with a copy of the Bhagavad Gita in his hands, aged just 18.

47. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (6 February 1890 – 20 January 1988)

- **The Frontier Gandhi**: Born in Utmanzai in the Peshawar Valley of the North-West Frontier Province (modern Pakistan). He dedicated his early life to educational reform among the Pashtun tribes, founding independent schools. In 1929, he launched the historic *Khudai Khidmatgar* (Servants of God) movement, popularly known as the "Red Shirts." He achieved something deemed impossible: mobilizing over 100,000 fiercely tribal Pashtuns into a strictly non-violent, anti-colonial peace army that aligned with Mahatma Gandhi's campaigns.

- **The Rejection of Partition**: Known universally as the *Frontier Gandhi*, he faced brutal British military crack-downs, including the 1930 Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre in Peshawar where British troops fired on his unarmed volunteers. He spent decades inside British cells. Khan was an opponent of the Partition of India, arguing it would leave the Pashtuns vulnerable. When the Congress leadership eventually agreed to the partition plan in 1947, he felt deeply betrayed, stating: *"You have thrown us to the wolves."* He spent his later years in Pakistan under near-continuous house arrest and prison, passing away in Peshawar in 1988.

48. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (14 April 1891 – 6 December 1956)

- **The Fight Against Internal Tyranny**: Born Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar into a Dalit family facing severe social ostracization and

untouchability. Overcoming immense systemic barriers, he earned multiple doctorates from Columbia University and the London School of Economics, qualifying as a premier legal scholar. Ambedkar re-framed the entire freedom movement, arguing that political independence from British rule was a hollow victory if millions of Dalits remained structurally enslaved by the internal tyranny of the caste system.

- **The Mahad Satyagraha and Constitutional Blueprint**: In March 1927, he launched the historic *Mahad Satyagraha*, leading thousands of Dalits to drink water from the Chawdar Tank, directly shattering the ancient orthodox bans on untouchables accessing public water sources. He founded the Independent Labour Party and edited *Mooknayak* to amplify subaltern voices. Appointed as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the Constitution of India following independence, Ambedkar engineered a robust constitutional shield. He legally banned untouchability, institutionalized affirmative action, and anchored absolute equality into the foundational legal bedrock of Indian democracy. He passed away in December 1956.

49. Garimella Satyanarayana (16 December 1893 – 18 December 1952)

- **The Subversive Ballad**: Born into a poor family in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. A passionate writer, he abandoned his formal education to join Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. Garimella realized that regional oral literature was the most effective vehicle to radicalize the rural, non-English speaking masses against British rule.

- **The Sentence**: In 1921, he composed his masterpiece, a multi-stanza Telugu folk song titled **"Maakodi Tella Doranamu"** (We Don't Need This White Rule). The song captured the imagination of the public, becoming a viral anthem sung by farmers, railway workers, and students during mass street demonstrations across the Madras Presidency. The British administration considered the text highly seditious and arrested Garimella. When brought before the magistrate, he proudly sang the ballad in open court. He was sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment in a penal jail, which ruined his health and left his family in severe financial

distress. He lived in systemic poverty until his passing on 18 December 1952.

50. Surya Sen (22 March 1894 – 12 January 1934)

- **The Chittagong Armoury Raid**: Born in Noapara, Chittagong (modern Bangladesh). A soft-spoken high school teacher popularly known as *Masterda*, he was the brilliant chief architect of the Chittagong branch of the *Jugantar* party. Sen realized that small-scale isolated assassinations were ineffective; he designed a military plan to execute a coordinated, synchronized raid on the British state infrastructure to inspire a general uprising.

- **The Provisional Government and Execution**: On the night of 18 April 1930, Sen led a disciplined group of over sixty young revolutionaries, including Pritilata Waddedar and Kalpana Datta, dressed as British soldiers. They successfully raided the twin imperial armories in Chittagong, cut down the central telegraph and telephone lines, and disrupted the railway tracks, completely cutting off the district from the empire. Sen hoisted the national flag and declared a *Provisional Revolutionary Government of India*. His forces retreated into the Jalalabad hills, fighting a pitched battle against heavy British infantry machine guns. Captured after three years in hiding, Sen was subjected to brutal prison torture before being hanged at Chittagong Jail on 12 January 1934.

51. Kartar Singh Sarabha (24 May 1896 – 16 November 1915)

- **The Ghadar Spark**: Born in Sarabha village, Punjab. He traveled to San Francisco in 1912 to study at the University of California, Berkeley. While in America, he joined hands with Lala Har Dayal to found the *Ghadar Party*, an international revolutionary movement aimed at overthrowing British rule in India through an armed military mutiny. Sarabha became the primary editor of the Punjabi edition of the journal *Ghadar*, operating the printing press and composing fiery revolutionary poetry.

- **The Lahore Execution**: When WWI broke out in 1914, Sarabha and hundreds of Ghadarites sailed back to India to execute a pan-Indian military mutiny within the British Indian regiments. Sarabha traveled in disguise across military cantonments in Punjab,

manufacturing explosives and urging native soldiers to revolt. When the plot was betrayed by an internal police informant, Sarabha was arrested in February 1915. Standing trial in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, the 19-year-old proudly admitted to his actions, stating it was his fundamental right to wage war against the King-Emperor. He was hanged at Lahore Central Jail on 16 November 1915, later serving as the primary source of revolutionary inspiration for a young Bhagat Singh.

52. Subhas Chandra Bose (23 January 1897 – 18 August 1945)

- **The Radical Shift**: Born in Cuttack, Odisha, to a prosperous family. He studied at Cambridge and secured the fourth rank in the prestigious Indian Civil Service (ICS) examination, but resigned his position in 1921, refusing to serve the colonial administration. He rose rapidly to become National President of the Indian National Congress (1938 and 1939). However, sharp ideological differences with Gandhi over the total sufficiency of non-violence led to his resignation. Placed under tight house arrest by the British at the outbreak of WWII, Bose executed a dramatic escape in January 1941, traveling in disguise through Kabul and Moscow to Europe.

- **The Azad Hind Fauj**: He traveled by a submarine to Japanese-occupied Singapore in 1943, where he took supreme command of the **Azad Hind Fauj** (Indian National Army). He organized over 40,000 Indian prisoners of war and expatriate volunteers into a disciplined modern military force to liberate India by force, launching his famous battle-cry: *"Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom!"* His army marched through Burma, raising the tricolour on liberated soil in Kohima and Imphal before supply-line collapses forced a retreat. He disappeared mysteriously following a plane crash in Taipei on 18 August 1945.

53. Ram Prasad Bismil (11 June 1897 – 19 December 1927)

- **The Hindustan Republican Association**: Born in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. A master poet who wrote under the pen names *Bismil* and *Ram*, he co-founded the *Hindustan Republican Association* (HRA) alongside Sachindranath Sanyal. The

organization's objective was to establish a Federal Republic of United States of India through an armed revolution. Bismil realized that the cell required heavy funding to purchase modern automatic weapons from Europe.

- **The Kakori Train Down-Operation**: On 9 August 1925, Bismil masterminded the historic *Kakori Train Robbery*. His cell stopped the 8-Down government treasury train near Lucknow and successfully seized the imperial tax funds. The Raj responded with a massive counter-intelligence crack-down, arresting the HRA core leadership. Convicted in the resulting Kakori Conspiracy Case after a long trial, Bismil wrote his autobiography inside his death cell. On 19 December 1927, he walked to the gallows at Gorakhpur Jail with a smile on his face, loudly singing his signature anthem: *"Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai"* (The desire for sacrifice lives in our hearts).

54. Alluri Sitarama Raju (4 July 1897 – 7 May 1924)

- **The Adivasi Forest Front**: Born in Pandrangi village, Andhra Pradesh. Deeply spiritual, he abandoned his comfortable family life to wander the forests of the Eastern Ghats, living closely among the tribal Adivasi communities. Raju witnessed the systematic destruction of tribal livelihoods caused by the British Madras Forest Act of 1882, which restricted their access to forest produce and banned their traditional *Podu* (shifting cultivation) agriculture.

- **The Rampa Rebellion**: From 1922 to 1924, Raju led the historic *Rampa Rebellion*. He organized tribal archers into an effective guerrilla militia, conducting swift raids on British police outposts to seize modern firearms. Using his intimate knowledge of the rugged terrain, he routinely outmanoeuvred heavily armed British infantry units, earning the title *Manyam Veerudu* (Hero of the Jungle). The Raj eventually deployed specialized Assam Rifles battalions to flush out the hills. Raju was finally captured on 7 May 1924, tied to a tree by colonial forces, and executed by firing squad without a trial.

55. Udham Singh (26 December 1899 – 31 July 1940)

- **The Jallianwala Oath**: Born Sher Singh in Sunam, Punjab. Orphaned at a young age, he was raised inside an orphanage in Amritsar. On 13 April 1919, he was present inside Jallianwala

Bagh, helping distribute water to the peaceful public gathering when General Dyer's troops opened fire. Surviving the horrific massacre, Singh took a sacred oath to hold the top administrators of the Punjab regime personally accountable.

- **The Caxton Hall Execution**: For 21 years, Singh traveled across the globe under various aliases, joining international revolutionary networks connected to the Ghadar Party. He tracked Michael O'Dwyer, who had been the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab during the 1919 massacre and had openly approved Dyer's actions. On 13 March 1940, O'Dwyer attended a joint public meeting at Caxton Hall in London. Singh walked into the hall with a revolver concealed inside a book, stepped up to the podium, and shot O'Dwyer dead. He stood his ground, surrendered voluntarily to the police, and stated at his trial that he had fulfilled his duty to his martyred countrymen. He was hanged at Pentonville Prison on 31 July 1940.

56. Ashfaqulla Khan (22 October 1900 – 19 December 1927)

- **The Cross-Religious Revolutionary Alliance**: Born into an affluent Pathan family in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. A gifted Urdu poet who wrote under the pen name *Hasrat*, Khan was deeply moved by the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922. He joined the *Hindustan Republican Association* (HRA) alongside Ram Prasad Bismil, forming an unbreakable bond of friendship. This partnership stood as a direct challenge to the British administration's strategy of pitting Hindu and Muslim communities against each other.

- **The Kakori Train Action and Execution**: Khan was a central military planner for the historic Kakori Train Robbery executed on 9 August 1925. He successfully boarded the 8-Down treasury train and used physical force to break open the secure government safe containing colonial tax remittances. Following the operation, he evaded a massive dragnet by traveling in various disguises across Bihar and Delhi. He planned to escape to Europe to secure modern firearms for the underground cells. He was finally betrayed by a close acquaintance in Delhi. While awaiting trial in Faizabad Jail, British prosecutors tried to exploit his religious identity to make him turn state witness against Bismil. Khan fiercely rejected the

manipulation. He clutched a copy of the Holy Quran around his neck as he walked to the gallows on 19 December 1927.

57. Komaram Bheem (22 October 1901 – 8 October 1940)

- **The Sovereign Tribal Mandate**: Born into a Gond tribal family in Sankepalli, Hyderabad Princely State (modern Telangana). He grew up in an environment where tribal communities faced brutal exploitation by the Nizam’s forest guards and local landlords, who seized ancestral lands and imposed exorbitant taxes on basic forest produce. After his father was killed by forest authorities, Bheem escaped to Assam, working in tea plantations where he learned about the labor movements and nationalist agitations.

- **Jal, Jangal, Jameen**: Returning to his native forests, Bheem coined the historic, foundational slogan **"Jal, Jangal, Jameen"** (Water, Forest, Land). He asserted that tribal communities held sovereign autonomy over their ancestral environments. He went underground, forming a powerful guerrilla army comprising Gond and Koya tribal volunteers in the Jodeghat forests. Armed with traditional bows, spears, and captured firearms, his militia successfully resisted the Nizam's police columns for years. On 8 October 1940, a massive armed force deployed by the state surrounded his secret forest camp. Bheem fought bravely against heavy musketry until he was killed in action, remaining a legendary icon of tribal self-determination.

58. Bhogtari Baruani (1901 – 20 September 1942)

- **The Rural Vanguard of Assam**: Born into a humble family in the Nagaon district of Assam. Although she lived a quiet, domestic life for decades without formal education, her political consciousness was awakened during the mass civil disobedience campaigns. In August 1942, when the top national leadership was arrested at the launch of the Quit India Movement, Baruani stepped forward to coordinate village-level non-violent agitation cells across her district.

- **Defending the Flag**: On 20 September 1942, a large, peaceful procession of local residents marched toward the local administrative headquarters to hoist the nationalist flag. British

police and state military units blocked the road, launching a brutal baton charge to disperse the crowd. During the confrontation, a British officer violently knocked the national tricolour out of a young girl's hands, trampling it. Witnessing the insult, the 41-year-old Baruani surged to the front of the lines, snatched the flag from the dirt, and struck the officer with a flag-staff. She was shot through the chest by colonial police, dying on the spot as an iconic regional martyr of the 1942 movement.

59. Helen Lepcha (27 January 1902 – 18 August 1980)

- **The Himalayan Mobilization**: Born in Sangmoo, Sikkim, she later relocated to the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Deeply moved by Mahatma Gandhi's call for non-cooperation in 1920, she became a prominent organizer among the indigenous communities of the Eastern Himalayas. Lepcha traveled on foot through steep mountain passes, successfully organizing massive labor strikes and political picketing units across the vast British-owned tea estates.

- **Netaji's Kurseong Escape**: Her exceptional organizational skill drew the attention of senior leaders. During the Non-Cooperation Movement, she changed her operational name to *Savitri Devi* to evade police surveillance. When Subhas Chandra Bose was placed under strict house arrest by British authorities in Kurseong in 1939, Lepcha used her local networks to establish a secure communication line with him. She successfully smuggled out critical political directives and letters hidden inside food baskets, directly contributing to the logistics that eventually allowed Bose to escape from India. She continued her social and nationalist work in the hills until her passing in August 1980.

60. Matmur Jamoh (Died 14 May 1912)

- **The Northeast Frontier Rebellion**: An Adi tribal warrior from the Siang district of present-day Arunachal Pradesh. In the early 20th century, the British administration began executing aggressive cartographic and political expansions into the independent tribal belts of the northeastern frontier, disregarding indigenous land sovereignty and forest customs.

- **The Komsing Execution**: Jamoh resolved to halt the imperial encroachment. In March 1911, Noel Williamson, a British Assistant Political Officer, led an armed expedition into the Adi tribal lands without securing community permission. Jamoh masterminded a coordinated strike. On 31 March 1911, his warrior cell ambushed the British column at Komsing village, executing Williamson and his aides. The British Empire retaliated by deploying a large military punitive expedition equipped with advanced firearms to flush out the hills. Jamoh's village was burned down, and after a long guerrilla standoff, he was captured. He was incarcerated in a colonial prison, passing away in captivity on 14 May 1912.

61. Lal Bahadur Shastri (2 October 1904 – 11 January 1966)

- **The Ground Worker to Premier**: Born into a poor family in Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh. He abandoned his formal education as a teenager to join Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement, later earning the title *Shastri* (Scholar) from the Kashi Vidyapith. He spent a cumulative total of over seven years across various British prison cells for organizing peasant agitations and individual satyagrahas, earning a reputation for absolute integrity and a simple lifestyle.

- **Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**: Shastri rose through the ranks of the Congress to become India's second Prime Minister in 1964. During the 1965 war, when the country faced simultaneous external military aggression and severe food shortages due to geopolitical pressures, Shastri steered the nation with exceptional clarity. He coined the iconic slogan **"Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"** (Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer). This simple phrase successfully unified rural agricultural production with frontline national defense, securing self-reliance and democratic stability during a critical post-independence crisis. He passed away in Tashkent in January 1966.

62. Tirupur Kumaran (4 October 1904 – 11 January 1932)

- **The Textile Boycott Organizer**: Born into a humble weaving family in Chennimalai, Tamil Nadu. He founded the *Desabandhu Youth Association* to organize mass anti-imperial boycotts across

the textile manufacturing hubs of South India. Kumaran specialized in mobilizing industrial workers to picket British cloth stores, severely denting colonial trade revenues in the Madras Presidency.

- **Kodi Kaatha Kumaran**: On 11 January 1932, Kumaran took part in a large protest march through Tirupur against the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi. The British administration had explicitly declared all public demonstrations illegal under strict emergency martial decrees. Colonial police forces launched a brutal lathi charge to break up the lines. Kumaran was targeted and struck repeatedly across the head and upper body, sustaining fatal skull fractures. As he collapsed unconscious onto the road, his hands rigidly held the nationalist flag, ensuring the tricolour never touched the ground before he passed away. He is universally revered across southern India as *Kodi Kaatha Kumaran* (Kumaran who Protected the Flag).

63. Kushal Konwar (21 March 1905 – 15 June 1943)

- **The Satyagrahi Framed**: Born in the Golaghat district of Assam. A deeply committed Gandhian satyagrahi, Konwar lived a quiet life of absolute non-violence, spinning *khadi* and running local Congress committees. During the intense Quit India Movement of 1942, regional revolutionary cells derailed a British military troop train near his district.

- **The Scaffold at Jorhat**: Although Konwar had zero involvement in the violent sabotage operation and maintained strict adherence to non-violence, the local British administration wanted to strike terror into the regional leadership. They arrested Konwar as the primary conspirator. Refusing to falsify evidence or implicate others to save his own life, Konwar stood trial with complete peace of mind. He was sentenced to death and walked calmly to the gallows at Jorhat Jail on 15 June 1943, praying for the liberation of his homeland until his final breath. He stands as the only recorded martyr hanged during the final phase of the Quit India Movement.

64. Lakshmi Bai Kelkar (6 July 1905 – 27 November 1978)

- **The Women's Social Mobilization**: Born in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Kelkar realized that the mainstream nationalist

movement required an independent, organized framework for women to build physical fitness, strategic awareness, and social leadership, moving past purely domestic roles.

- **The Rashtriya Sevika Samiti**: In 1936, she founded the *Rashtriya Sevika Samiti*, an independent nationwide women's organization. Kelkar traveled across various provinces, establishing a network of centers that provided physical training, martial arts skills, and ideological education to thousands of young girls. Her parallel framework successfully prepared a disciplined cadre of women workers who played a critical role in providing logistical support, shelter, and financial management to underground political networks across Central India. She continued her institutional work until her passing in November 1978.

65. Haipou Jadonang (10 June 1905 – 29 August 1931)

- **The Naga Sovereign Movement**: Born into a Rongmei Naga family in Puiluan, modern Manipur. A visionary spiritual and political leader, Jadonang witnessed the intense economic and social exploitation of the Naga tribes by British administrators, who imposed arbitrary house taxes and forced labor. He founded the *Heraka* spiritual movement, successfully unifying the Zeliangrong Naga tribes into a powerful political alliance.

- **The Call to Disobedience and Execution**: Jadonang openly called for a total refusal to pay house taxes to the British Crown, declaring the imminent arrival of *Makam Gwangdi* (The Kingdom of the Nagas). He began organizing independent defense cells to prepare for an armed rebellion. Fearing a massive tribal insurrection across the hills, British authorities executed a surprise arrest of Jadonang in 1931. Following a highly biased summary trial, he was falsely implicated in a regional murder case and publicly hanged by colonial authorities in Imphal on 29 August 1931. His unfinished political legacy was immediately carried forward by his young cousin, Rani Gaidinliu.

66. Chandrashekhar Azad (23 July 1906 – 27 February 1931)

- **The Flogging and the Vow**: Born Chandrashekhar Tiwari in Bhabhra, Madhya Pradesh. Arrested at age 15 during the Non-Cooperation Movement, he defiantly told the British magistrate that his name was *Azad* (Free), his father's name was *Swatantrata* (Independence), and his home was *Jail*. The furious judge ordered him to be brutally flogged 15 times, but Azad shouted *Vande Mataram* with every lash. Disillusioned by the suspension of the movement, he joined the HRA, rising to become its de facto military commander. He reorganised the cell into the *Hindustan Socialist Republican Association* (HSRA) alongside Bhagat Singh.

- **The Alfred Park Stand**: Azad was the master strategist behind the Saunders retaliation in Lahore and the Central Assembly bombing. He managed to evade the imperial secret service for years, moving in various disguises across northern India. He swore a life oath that the British police would never capture him alive. On 27 February 1931, pinned down by a large, armed police force at Alfred Park in Allahabad due to an informant's tip, Azad engaged in a fierce gun battle behind a tree. Mortally wounded and running out of ammunition, he used his final bullet on himself to keep his sacred vow of dying free.

67. Sukhdev Thapar (15 May 1907 – 23 March 1931)

- **The Organizational Brain of HSRA**: Born in Ludhiana, Punjab. A brilliant intellectual and organizer, Sukhdev was the central coordinating figure of the HSRA network across northern India. He co-founded the *Naujawan Bharat Sabha* to radicalize college students in Lahore, introducing them to Marxist and socialist philosophy.

- **The Logistical Mastermind and Scaffold**: Sukhdev was the mastermind behind the logistics of the J.P. Saunders retaliation in December 1928, choosing the operatives and mapping out the escape routes. He also established and managed the secret bomb-manufacturing laboratories across Lahore and Saharanpur. Arrested following a surprise police raid on a bomb factory, Sukhdev stood trial in the comprehensive Lahore Conspiracy Case. He shared the death sentence with his comrades Bhagat Singh and

Rajguru. Refusing to appeal for imperial mercy, Sukhdev was hanged at Lahore Central Jail on 23 March 1931, aged just 23.

68. Bhagat Singh (28 September 1907 – 23 March 1931)

- **The Socialist Ideologue**: Born into a politically active family in Banga, Punjab. A voracious reader who mastered Marxist literature, Singh realized that true independence must mean the complete end of all exploitation—both foreign and domestic. In December 1928, he shot British police officer John Saunders in Lahore to avenge the fatal beating of Lala Lajpat Rai.

- **The Assembly Demonstration and Jail Hunger Strike**: On 8 April 1929, Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw low-intensity smoke bombs into the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi. They did not intend to kill, but used the chamber to scatter leaflets and shout **"Inquilab Zindabad!"** (Long Live the Revolution), surrendering voluntarily to use their trial as a national political platform. Inside prison, Singh led a historic 116-day hunger strike, forcing the Raj to reform the treatment of political prisoners. He authored his famous essay *Why I Am an Atheist* while in his death cell. He was hanged at Lahore Central Jail on 23 March 1931, becoming an enduring martyr-symbol for generations of Indian youth.

70. Shivaram Rajguru (24 August 1908 – 23 March 1931)

- **The Marksman from Pune**: Born in Khed, near Pune, Maharashtra. A Sanskrit scholar who joined the HSRA after traveling to Varanasi, Rajguru was renowned within the underground network for his exceptional shooting accuracy and physical strength.

- **The Saunders Execution**: On 17 December 1928, Rajguru was a key operative in the ambush targeting John Saunders outside the Lahore police headquarters. It was Rajguru who fired the initial, fatal shot that brought down the officer, ensuring the success of the retaliation before Bhagat Singh advanced. He was arrested in Pune months later while trying to organize a new revolutionary cell. Convicted in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, he walked proudly

to the gallows alongside Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev on 23 March 1931.

71. Aruna Asaf Ali (16 July 1909 – 29 July 1996)

- **The Heroine of 1942**: Born Aruna Ganguly in Kalka, Punjab. She defied conservative societal norms by marrying prominent Muslim Congress leader Asaf Ali. She rose to legendary national prominence during the Quit India Movement of 1942.
- **The Gowalia Tank Flag Raising**: On 9 August 1942, with the entire top-tier Congress leadership secretly arrested by the British Raj within hours of the movement's declaration, a massive crowd gathered at Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay. Aruna stepped forward through the police lines, braved the threat of immediate machine-gun fire, and hoisted the national tricolour, providing an instant spark for the nationwide movement. She went underground, successfully operating a network of secret printing presses and safe-houses for years, earning the permanent title "Grand Old Lady of the Freedom Movement." She served as Delhi's first Mayor after independence.

72. Accamma Cherian (14 February 1909 – 5 May 1982)

- **The Bare-Chest Defiance of Travancore**: Born in Kanjirappally, Kerala. A highly educated school headmistress, she abandoned her academic career to lead the Travancore State Congress's agitation against the autocratic rule of the local Diwan, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, who was backed by British imperial forces.
- **The Trivandrum Palace March**: In 1938, Cherian organized and led a massive, non-violent protest march numbering over 20,000 people to the royal palace in Trivandrum to demand the release of political prisoners and civil liberties. When the British Resident ordered state forces to point their rifles at the front ranks and prepare to fire, Cherian stepped directly ahead of the barrels, tore open her coat, and shouted: *"I am the leader; shoot me first before you fire on my people."* Stunned by her raw bravery, the military command lowered their weapons and withdrew. Mahatma Gandhi later honored her as the "Jhansi Rani of Travancore."

73. Batukeshwar Dutt (18 November 1910 – 20 July 1965)

- **The Assembly Operative**: Born in Oari, Bengal, and raised in Kanpur. A core explosive technician for the HSRA, Dutt walked side-by-side with Bhagat Singh into the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi on 8 April 1929. He was responsible for deploying the low-intensity smoke devices designed to create noise rather than inflict physical harm.

- **The Andaman Sentence**: Dutt surrendered along with Singh, shouting revolutionary slogans. While Singh was sentenced to death due to his connection to the Saunders case, Dutt was sentenced to transportation for life and sent to the notorious Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands. He participated in brutal hunger strikes against prison torture, severely ruining his health. Released shortly before independence, he lived a quiet, impoverished life in independent India, passing away in Delhi in July 1965.

74. Pritilata Waddedar (5 May 1911 – 24 September 1932)

- **The Pahartali European Club Raid**: Born in Chittagong (modern Bangladesh). A brilliant philosophy graduate, she joined Surya Sen's revolutionary cell, specializing in tracking British military movements.

- **The Unbroken End**: On 24 September 1932, Sen assigned Pritilata to lead an armed assault on the Pahartali European Club, an elite imperial establishment that featured a notorious sign reading: *"Dogs and Indians not allowed."* Dressed as a Punjabi male soldier, she led a team of fifteen revolutionaries who successfully stormed the compound using firearms and explosives. Wounded by a police bullet during the gunfight, Pritilata realized she could not escape. To prevent the British police from capturing her alive, she swallowed a lethal capsule of potassium cyanide, dying on the battlefield at age 21, keeping her absolute independence until her final breath.

75. Kalpana Datta (27 July 1913 – 8 February 1995)

- **The Explosives Technician**: Born in Sripur, Chittagong. While studying chemistry at Calcutta's Bethune College, she joined the *Anushilan Samiti* and later integrated into Surya Sen’s elite revolutionary cell. Datta specialized in manufacturing explosives, smuggling gun-cotton, and managing the transport logistics for underground operatives.

- **Transportation for Life**: She was part of the planning team for the 1930 Chittagong Armoury Raid and later went completely underground with Sen, traveling in male attire through the villages. Captured after a heavy gun battle with British infantry columns in 1933, she stood trial in the Second Chittagong Armoury Raid Case and was sentenced to transportation for life. Released in 1939 due to intense public pressure, she dedicated her later years to journalism and social justice, passing away in February 1995.

76. Captain Lakshmi Sahgal (24 October 1914 – 23 July 2012)

- **The Combat Doctor of INA**: Born Lakshmi Swaminadhan in Madras. A practicing medical doctor, she relocated to Singapore in 1940 to open a clinic for poor migrant laborers. When Subhas Chandra Bose arrived in East Asia in 1943 to rebuild the Indian National Army, Lakshmi abandoned her medical practice to volunteer.

- **The Rani of Jhansi Regiment**: Bose assigned her to form and lead the **Rani of Jhansi Regiment**, an all-female combat unit within the INA. She trained thousands of women in modern weapons, military tactics, and jungle warfare, rising to the rank of Captain. She led her infantry division into active combat on the Burma front against British imperial forces during WWII. Captured by the British in 1945, her subsequent public trial inside India sparked mass protests across the country, accelerating the final decision of the Raj to withdraw. She continued her medical service until her passing in 2012.

77. Rani Gaidinliu (26 January 1915 – 17 February 1993)

- **The Naga Rebel at Thirteen**: Born in Nungkao, Manipur, into the Rongmei Naga tribe. At just 13 years old, she joined Haipou Jadonang's spiritual and political movement. Following Jadonang's public hanging by the British in 1931, Gaidinliu took supreme command of the tribal resistance.

- **The Life Confinement**: She organized a fierce pan-regional tax strike and led armed guerrilla operations against British military outposts across Assam and Nagaland, out-marching colonial units through the dense hills. She was captured in a massive military sweep in 1932 and sentenced to life imprisonment. Jawaharlal Nehru visited her cell in 1937, marveling at her courage and giving her the permanent title **"Rani"** (Queen). Released only after independence in 1947, she remained an advocate for tribal rights in Northeast India until her passing in 1993.

78. Tara Rani Srivastava (Died August 1942)

- **The Siwan Police Station Assault**: Born into a humble rural family in Saran, Bihar. She married Phuldundu Babu, and together they became active vanguard workers during the Quit India Movement of 1942.

- **The Unyielding Flag**: Tara Rani led a large, unarmed procession toward the Siwan Police Station with the specific objective of hoisting the national flag on its roof to defy colonial authority. During the march, her husband was struck down by police gunfire. Undeterred, Tara Rani rushed to his side, bandaged his chest wounds using a strip torn from her own sari, and urged the line to advance. She kept marching, climbed the precinct battlements, and successfully raised the tricolour. Upon returning down the lines to her husband, she found he had succumbed to his wounds, but she stood vigil over his remains with absolute dignity, continuing her localized cell work.

79. Usha Mehta (25 March 1920 – 11 August 2000)

- **The Secret Transmitter**: Born in Saras village near Surat, Gujarat. A brilliant student of law, she rejected her father's position as a pro-British judge to join the 1942 Quit India Movement.

- **The Congress Radio**: Recognizing that the British administration had imposed absolute censorship on the national press, Mehta co-founded the **Secret Congress Radio**. She established hidden transmission nodes across Bombay, shifting locations daily to evade British radar tracking. Her station broadcast uncensored news of British military atrocities and national protest updates across India, opening every transmission with the iconic line: *"This is the Congress Radio broadcasting from somewhere in India."* Betrayed by an informant in late 1942, she endured brutal police interrogation but refused to betray her associates, spending four years in harsh imprisonment.

80. Kanaklata Barua (22 December 1924 – 20 September 1942)

- **The Teenage Vanguard**: Born in Borangabari, Assam. At just 17 years old, she joined the *Mrityu Bahini* (Death Army), a specialized squad of youth volunteers dedicated to national liberation during the Quit India Movement.

- **The Gohpur Martyrdom**: On 20 September 1942, Barua led a peaceful rally of unarmed peasants toward the Gohpur Police Station to hoist the national flag. When the British officer in charge threatened to fire if she advanced, Barua stepped forward, asserting that the flag belonged to the people. She was shot through the chest, passing the flag to her companion as she fell, becoming one of the youngest female martyrs of the freedom struggle.

81. U Tirot Sing Syiemlieh (1802 – 17 July 1835)

- **The Khasi Sovereign Defiance**: Born as the chief (*Syiem*) of Nongkhlaw in the Khasi Hills of modern Meghalaya. His confrontation with the British began when the EIC, represented by David Scott, requested permission to construct a strategic military transit road cutting directly through the Khasi Hills to link Assam

with the Bengal plains. Scott promised political autonomy and unregulated trade, but once inside, the EIC positioned armed soldiers and imposed arbitrary boundary regulations, treating the independent hills as conquered territory. [1]

- **The Anglo-Khasi War**: Tirot Sing fiercely rejected the imperial betrayal. On 4 April 1829, he led an armed assembly that struck at the British infrastructure projects, killing two British officers who refused to leave Nongkhlaw. This sparked the four-year-long *Anglo-Khasi War*. Armed primarily with traditional longbows, shields, and specialized hunting spears, Sing led his warriors deep into the caves and misty gorges of the Khasi Hills, launching devastating guerrilla ambushes against heavily armed British military columns.

- **Betrayal and Dhaka Confinement**: Unable to match his hit-and-run tactics, the British used scorched-earth warfare, burning down Khasi agrarian villages to create artificial famines. Wounded and running out of grain supplies, Sing was trapped in January 1833 after a collaborator leaked his cave hideout. He was deported to a high-security prison in Dhaka (modern Bangladesh), where he rejected all imperial offers of a pension in exchange for submitting to the Crown. He passed away in captivity on 17 July 1835.

82. Kunwar Singh (November 1777 – 26 April 1858)

- **The Octogenarian Commander**: Born into the royal Ujjainiya Rajput lineage of Jagdispur in modern Bhojpur district, Bihar. When the great Uprising of 1857 erupted across northern India, Singh was eighty years old and facing severe financial destitution because the EIC's revenue courts had aggressively placed his ancestral estates under receivership to recover artificial debts. [2]

- **The Bihar Campaign**: Despite his advanced age and failing health, Singh assumed complete de facto military command of the mutinous Danapur sepoys who arrived in Jagdispur. He turned his estate into a primary weapons factory, manufacturing indigenous gunpowder. He directed a brilliant multi-month defense of Arrah, defeating localized British detachments. Pursued by heavy British forces under Vincent Eyre, he led his army across the Ganges River to wage mobile guerrilla warfare across Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, routinely confusing younger British generals through rapid river transits.

- **The Severed Arm and Ultimate Stand**: In April 1858, while crossing the Ganges under heavy British artillery fire, a piece of shrapnel shattered his wrist. To prevent the spread of gangrene and keep fighting, Singh pulled out his sword, severed his own arm at the wrist, and threw it into the river as an offering. He marched back to Jagdispur, executed a final successful counter-strike that routed the pursuing British column, and passed away from his wounds on 26 April 1858, never allowing the British to capture his territory while he was alive.

83. Nana Sahib Peshwa II (19 May 1824 – c. 1859)

- **The Bithoor Disenfranchisement**: Born as Dhondu Pant into a Marathi family, he was adopted by Baji Rao II, the final Peshwa of the Maratha Empire, who was living in exile at Bithoor near Kanpur. When the Peshwa passed away, the EIC’s Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, applied a strict version of the Doctrine of Lapse [5]. He flatly refused to recognize Nana Sahib's succession, stripped him of his ancestral title, and completely cut off the family pension, driving him into deep political outrage. [1]

- **The Kanpur Siege**: Nana Sahib used his wealth to establish a massive anti-colonial intelligence network, bringing together Azimullah Khan and Tantia Tope [11]. When the 1857 Uprising broke out, he took command of the revolutionary forces at Kanpur, declaring himself the rightful Peshwa and forcing the British garrison under Wheeler to surrender after a brutal siege. He issued manifestos calling for a pan-Indian alliance against foreign commercial rule.

- **The Final Escape**: When British reinforcements under Havelock recaptured Kanpur through severe martial brutality, Nana Sahib retreated into the deep rural interior. He coordinated the revolutionary cells across Awadh until the movement collapsed. He managed to evade a massive imperial bounty and manhunt by crossing into the difficult mountainous terrain of Nepal around 1859, where he disappeared from historical records, remaining an uncatchable symbol of the 1857 high command.

84. Durga Devi Vohra - "Durga Bhabhi" (7 October 1907 – 15 October 1999)

- **The HSRA Vanguard**: Born into a Gujarati family in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, she married the radical intellectual Bhagwati Charan Vohra, who was the primary ideologue of the HSRA. Universally known within the underground revolutionary cells as *Durga Bhabhi*, she was an active operative who managed safe-houses, transported illegal weapon shipments under her garments, and tested newly manufactured explosives.

- **The Lahore Escape Deception**: Following the execution of British police official John Saunders in Lahore in December 1928, the entire city was locked down by thousands of armed police guards checking every transit route. To save Bhagat Singh from immediate capture, Durga volunteered for a daring deception operation. She dressed as an elite Westernized lady, wearing an expensive shawl, while Bhagat Singh cut his hair and posed as her aristocratic husband, carrying her child. They walked past the guards at the railway station and boarded a first-class train carriage to Calcutta, executing a clean escape.

- **The Lone Gun Strike**: Following the death of her husband in a bomb-testing accident and the subsequent arrests of the HSRA core, Durga refused to halt her work. On 8 October 1930, she walked onto a street in Bombay and fired her revolver at a moving vehicle carrying British police sergeant Taylor and his wife, an act of defiance that stunned the imperial intelligence branch. She was arrested and served multiple prison sentences, later dedicating her life to independent education before her passing in October 1999. [1, 3]

85. Pingali Venkayya (2 August 1876 – 4 July 1963)

- **The Flag Architect**: Born in Bhatlapenamarru near Machilipatnam, Andhra Pradesh. A multi-faceted scholar, geologist, and agriculturalist, he enlisted in the British Indian Army during the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa. It was there that he met Mahatma Gandhi and became deeply disturbed by the fact that Indian soldiers were forced to salute the British Union Jack despite their sacrifices.

- **Designing the Core Identity**: Venkayya returned to India and dedicated years to researching global flags and national designs, publishing a comprehensive book in 1916 that outlined thirty distinct flag variations for India. He argued that a unified, sovereign nation required a distinct visual anchor to mobilize the working masses.

- **The Tricolour Adopted**: At the 1921 INC session in Vijayawada, Venkayya presented his design to Mahatma Gandhi. The original flag featured a red stripe (representing Hindus) and a green stripe (representing Muslims), superimposed with a traditional spinning wheel (*charkha*) to signal economic self-reliance. Gandhi suggested adding a white stripe to represent all other minority communities. This design formed the absolute visual foundation for the *Swaraj Flag* and the final National Flag of India adopted in 1947, ensuring Venkayya’s place as the premier designer of the country's national identity. He passed away in poverty in 1963. [4]

86. Madan Mohan Malviya (25 December 1861 – 12 November 1946)

- **The Intellectual Awakening**: Born into a family of Sanskrit scholars in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. A premier lawyer, educationist, and journalist, Malviya served four times as the National President of the Indian National Congress (1909, 1918, 1930, and 1932). He utilized his publications, including the daily newspaper *Leader*, to expose the economic drainage and legal anomalies of the British Raj.

- **The Banaras Hindu University Foundation**: Malviya realized that political freedom was unsustainable without independent higher education. In 1916, he founded the **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)** in Varanasi, raising millions from both kings and commoners. He turned the university into a premier national sandbox where young students could study advanced modern sciences while being grounded in anti-colonial patriotism.

- **The Chauri Chaura Defense**: His greatest legal victory occurred following the 1922 Chauri Chaura violence, where a summary colonial court had passed mass execution orders for 225 native peasants. Malviya stepped into the High Court as the lead defense barrister, using his advanced legal acumen to dismantle the

prosecution's brief, successfully liberating 153 peasants from the gallows. He took a leading role in the Civil Disobedience campaigns and passed away in November 1946. [4]

87. Chittaranjan Das (5 November 1870 – 16 June 1925)

- **The Legal Shield of Revolutionaries**: Born in Calcutta, Bengal, he qualified as a barrister at the Middle Temple in London. Known universally as *Deshbandhu* (Friend of the Nation), Das built an elite legal practice, which he completely repurposed to defend young nationalists facing trial in colonial courts. His greatest victory occurred during the 1908 Alipore Bomb Case, where his brilliant legal defense successfully secured the absolute acquittal of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh from a life sentence [28].

- **The Swaraj Party Experiment**: Das abandoned his wealth during the Non-Cooperation Movement, donating his palatial house to the public cause. When Gandhi abruptly suspended the movement in 1922, Das broke away from orthodox Congress tactics. Alongside Motilal Nehru, he co-founded the **Swaraj Party** in 1923. He argued that nationalists should actively contest elections, enter the legislative councils, and systematically disrupt the colonial government's budgetary and legal bills from within the chambers. He served as the first Mayor of Calcutta and a vital mentor to a young Subhas Chandra Bose before his passing in June 1925 [52]. [2, 5]

88. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay (3 April 1903 – 29 October 1988)

- **The Feminist Vanguard**: Born into a wealthy family in Mangalore, Karnataka. A pioneer social reformer, actor, and freedom fighter, she fiercely argued that national liberation must proceed hand-in-hand with economic independence for women and the revival of indigenous handicrafts.

- **Storming the Legislative Bastion**: In 1926, she made history by becoming the first Indian woman to run for a legislative seat, contesting the Madras Provincial Assembly elections. During the 1930 Salt Satyagraha, she joined the frontlines, marching to the beach at Bombay to manufacture contraband salt. When police

forces raided the venue, Kamaladevi stood ahead of the batons, shielding the boiling salt pans with her body.

- **Sustaining the Artisans**: She spent years inside various British prisons. Following independence, she refused to take easy political offices, choosing instead to head the All India Handicrafts Board. She traveled through distant villages to revive dying native textile arts, protecting millions of rural weavers from global economic marginalization. [6]

89. Potti Sreeramulu (16 March 1901 – 15 December 1952)

- **The Satyagrahi of Social Justice**: Born into a Telugu-speaking family in Madras, he studied sanitary engineering before abandoning his career to join Mahatma Gandhi’s Sabarmati Ashram in 1930. Sreeramulu became a dedicated ground worker, taking a leading role in the Salt Satyagraha and the Quit India Movement, which resulted in multiple prison terms.

- **Temple Entry Agitations**: Sreeramulu focused his attention on internal social liberation, executing several fasts to force orthodox temple authorities in Nellore to open their shrines to Dalits, working in direct alignment with Ambedkar's civil agenda [48].

- **The Supreme Fast for Autonomy**: Following independence, the Telugu-speaking population faced administrative marginalization within the massive Madras Presidency. Sreeramulu demanded a separate linguistic state to protect their cultural and political rights. On 19 October 1952, he launched an uncompromising fast-unto-death in Madras. Despite failing health and political pressure, he refused to break his fast, passing away on 15 December 1952 after 58 days of starvation. His martyrdom forced Prime Minister Nehru to immediately concede the demand, leading to the creation of Andhra State and setting the template for the linguistic reorganization of Indian states [45]. [3]

90. Karnad Sadashiva Rao (1881 – 9 January 1937)

- **The Philanthropist of Canara**: Born into a wealthy family in Mangalore, Karnataka. A premier lawyer, he abandoned his

practice to become the principal organizer of the Congress movement across the coastal Canara region.

- **Social and Educational Upliftment**: Rao realized that national unity was impossible without internal social reform. He founded the *Mahila Sabha* to provide independent vocational education to widows and destitute women, and established schools specifically for Dalit children, directly financing their meals and textbooks out of his own pocket.

- **Financial Sacrifice and Death**: During the Non-Cooperation and Salt Satyagraha movements, Rao spent his entire ancestral fortune to fund the logistics, legal defense, and families of poor satyagrahis who were jailed by the British administration. He was imprisoned multiple times, contracting severe illnesses behind bars. Rao passed away in absolute poverty on 9 January 1937, having sacrificed his health and wealth for his country. [3]

91. Freda Bedi (5 February 1911 – 26 March 1977)

- **The British Voice for Indian Freedom**: Born as Freda Houlston in Derby, England. While studying at the University of Oxford, she met Baba Pyare Lal Bedi, a radical Punjabi nationalist student. They married and relocated to India in 1934, where Freda completely integrated into the anti-colonial struggle, writing radical articles exposing British exploitation.

- **The Satyagraha Incarceration**: In 1941, Mahatma Gandhi hand-picked Freda to participate as an individual satyagrahi to protest British wartime emergency decrees [26]. She stepped onto a public stage in Lahore, delivered a powerful anti-war speech, and was arrested by colonial authorities. She became the first British woman to be incarcerated in an Indian prison for sedition against the Crown, serving her sentence inside the Lahore Women's Jail. Following independence, she became a prominent Buddhist nun, dedicating her later years to managing relief camps for Tibetan refugees. [7]

92. Umabai Kundapur (1892 – 1992)

- **The Underground Sanctuary Network**: Born in Mangalore and married into a progressive family in Hubli, Karnataka. Following

her husband's early death, she dedicated her life to social reform, heading the *Bhagini Mandal* and leading women satyagrahis during the non-cooperation agitations, which resulted in her imprisonment.

- **The Heart of Quit India Logistics**: Her greatest contribution occurred during the intense Quit India Movement of 1942. When the top tier leadership went underground to escape mass arrests, Umabai turned her residence and independent girl's school in Hubli into a highly secure, parallel underground hub. She provided shelter, medical care, and financial assistance to hundreds of fleeing revolutionaries who were pursued by British intelligence, managing a complex communication chain across western India until the end of the war. [7]

93. Kotwal Dhan Singh Gurjar (Died 4 July 1857)

- **The Spark at Meerut**: Gurjar served as the *Kotwal* (chief of police) of the strategic military city of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. On the night of 10 May 1857, when native sepoys broke into open mutiny against their British officers, Gurjar abandoned his imperial uniform and allegiance to join the revolutionary ranks.

- **Unlocking the Garrison**: He used his official authority as the Kotwal to deliberately open the central district jail gates, liberating over 800 prisoners and mutinous sepoys who instantly surged into the armories to capture modern weapons. He mobilized thousands of local peasants and community members to systematically cut down the British communication lines linking Meerut with Delhi. Captured during a heavy counter-offensive by British forces in July 1857, Gurjar was summarily court-martialled and executed on 4 July 1857. [8]

94. George Joseph (5 November 1887 – 5 March 1938)

- **The Editor of Madurai**: Born in Chengannur, Kerala, he trained as a barrister in London before establishing an elite practice in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. He joined the radical wing of the Congress under Tilak's inspiration and traveled to Britain in 1918 as part of the Home Rule deputation to lobby for self-determination [22].

- **The Criminal Tribes Defense**: Motilal Nehru hand-picked Joseph to serve as the editor of the nationalist daily *The Independent* in Allahabad. His greatest legal and social impact occurred when he fought an uncompromising battle against the British government's discriminatory *Criminal Tribes Act*, which had legally branded various nomadic communities in South India as hereditary criminals. Joseph lived among them, defended their rights in the High Court, and earned the popular title *Rosappu Durai* (The Rose Gentleman) from the locals. He spent years inside various British cells, passing away in March 1938. [5, 8]

95. Ka Phan Nonglait (Died c. 1850)

- **The Khasi Tactical Trap**: Born into a Khasi clan in modern Eastern West Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya. She operated as a vital intelligence agent and tactician during the Anglo-Khasi War, working in direct coordination with the guerrilla front led by U Tirot Sing.

- **The Ammunition Ambush**: In a famous military episode, an EIC military detachment was dispatched to Nongkhlaw to flush out the native archers. Nonglait discovered that the soldiers were resting near a riverbank due to heat. She used her local positioning to offer them local beverages, waiting for them to lower their guard. While they were distracted, she quietly gathered their firearms and ammunition pouches and dropped them into the deep river. She then signaled the hidden Khasi warriors, who launched a surprise ambush that successfully routed the defenceless EIC column, making her a legendary female figure of northeastern tribal resistance. [8]

96. Matangini Hazra (19 October 1870 – 29 September 1942)

- **The Domestic to Political Evolution:** Born into a poor peasant family in the Hogla village near Midnapore, Bengal. Widowed at an early age and left without formal education or financial resources, her life was transformed when she was exposed to Gandhi's civil disobedience message. She abandoned

her quiet domestic life to dedicate herself to the freedom struggle, spinning *khadi* cloth daily and organizing localized women's picketing units against British opium and liquor shops. Her absolute devotion to Gandhian principles earned her the popular moniker *"Gandhi Buri"* (Old Lady Gandhi) across Bengal.

- **The Quit India Procession and Martyrdom:** In September 1942, during the height of the Quit India Movement, the 72-year-old Hazra took command of a massive, peaceful procession comprising thousands of rural women. Their objective was to march through Midnapore and take control of the Tamluk Police Station to declare a free native administration. As the unarmed crowd reached the town limits, British military units blocked the path and opened fire. Eyewitness accounts record that Hazra stepped to the front of the lines, holding the national flag high. She was shot three times—in both hands and the forehead—but continued to march forward, keeping the tricolour upright and chanting *Vande Mataram* until she collapsed dead on the road.

97. Senapati Bapat (12 November 1880 – 28 November 1967)

- **The Global Bomb Manual:** Born Pandurang Mahadev Bapat in Parner, Maharashtra. A brilliant student, he secured a scholarship to study engineering at Heriot-Watt College in Edinburgh, Scotland. While in Britain, he joined radical anti-colonial groups and was introduced to Russian revolutionaries. Bapat traveled to Paris, where he

acquired a highly detailed 40-page manual on bomb-making from a Russian cell. He translated this manual, duplicated it, and smuggled copies back to India to fuel the revolutionary networks of *Abhinav Bharat* and *Jugantar*.

- **The Mulshi Satyagraha and Incarceration:** Upon his return to India, Bapat experienced a tactical shift, aligning with Mahatma Gandhi's mass mobilization methods while maintaining a fiercely militant edge. Between 1921 and 1924, he directed the historic *Mulshi Satyagraha*. This was one of the world's earliest organized environmental and peasant anti-displacement struggles, fighting against a massive hydro-electric dam project backed by corporate interests and the colonial government that threatened to submerge ancestral farmlands. His fearless frontline leadership earned him the permanent title *Senapati* (Commander). He was arrested for his disruptive agitations and spent nearly seven years in rigorous confinement, surviving to hoist the national flag over Pune on Independence Day in 1947.

98. Subramania Bharati (11 December 1882 – 11 September 1921)

- **The Poet of Nationalism:** Born Chinnaswami Subramania Iyer in Ettayapuram, Tamil Nadu. A child prodigy, he earned the title *Bharati* (one blessed by the Goddess of Learning) from the King of Ettayapuram for his literary genius. Bharati revolutionized Tamil literature by stripping away complex classical forms and using simple, powerful verse to directly stoke patriotic fire among the

masses. Working as the assistant editor of *Swadesamitran* and later editing the radical weekly *India*, he introduced political cartoons to South India to expose imperial exploitation.

- **Exile in Pondicherry and Early Demise:** In 1908, when the British government arrested his publisher and launched a crack-down on radical writers, Bharati fled to French-ruled Pondicherry to escape arrest. From exile, he continued to print *India*, smuggling copies across the border. His immortal songs, such as *Achamillai Achamillai* (No Fear, No Fear) and *Aaduvome Palli Paaduvome*, combined calls for national liberation with themes of women's emancipation and the absolute destruction of the caste system. He returned to British India in 1918 and was briefly jimmied. His health deteriorated rapidly due to systemic poverty and stress, and he passed away on 11 September 1921 after being struck by a temple elephant in Madras.

99. Madan Lal Dhingra (18 September 1883 – 17 August 1909)

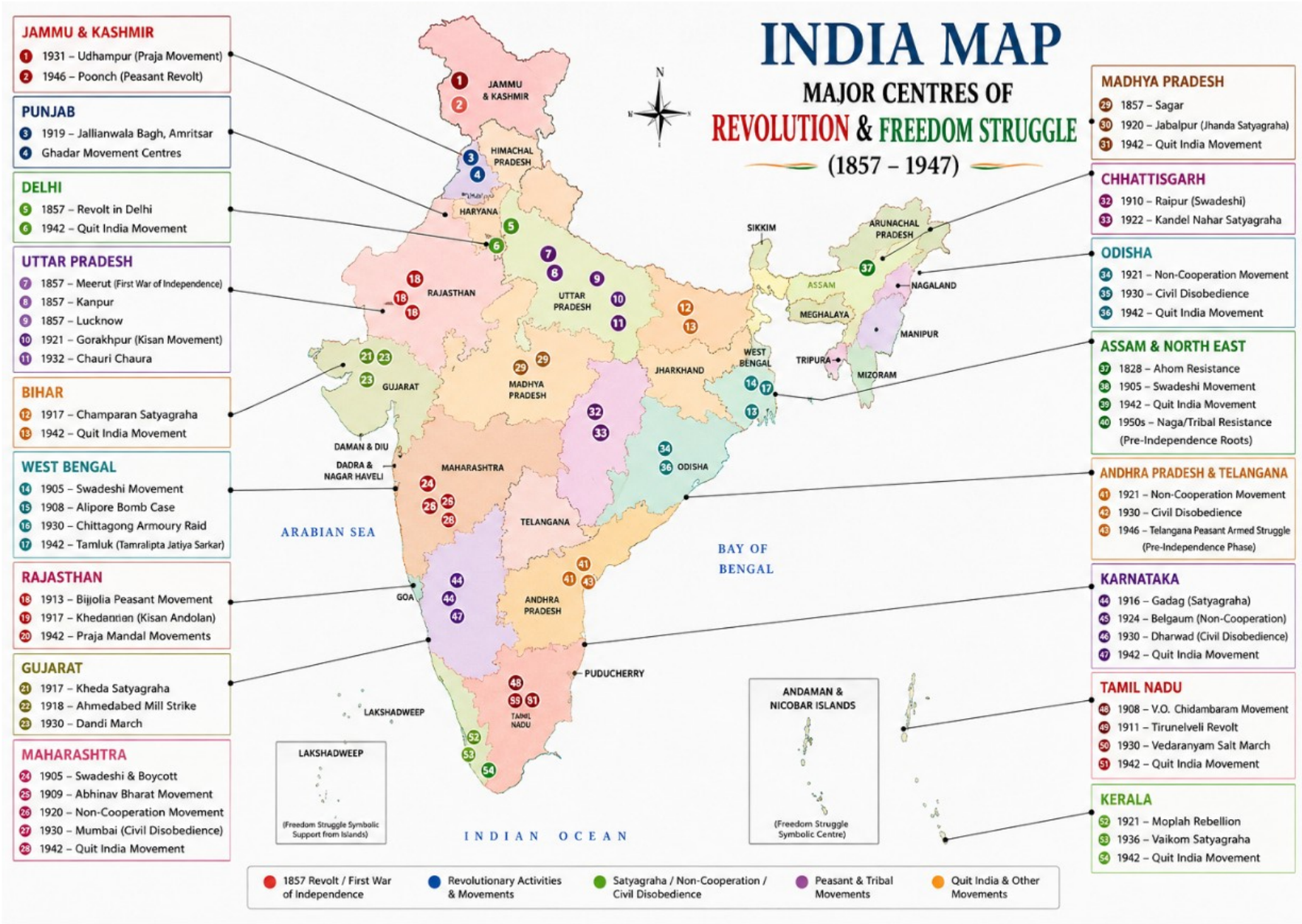
- **The London Strike:** Born into an ultra-wealthy, pro-British family of doctors in Amritsar, Punjab. His family disowned him when he displayed radical nationalist views as a student. He traveled to London in 1906 to study mechanical engineering at University College London. In Britain, he was drawn to *India House*, a crucial international hub for radical Indian students founded by Shyamji Krishna Varma, where he came under the direct ideological influence of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

- **The Assassination of Wyllie:** Deeply enraged by reports of executions, floggings, and arbitrary transportations of young freedom fighters back in India, Dhingra resolved to strike at the heart of the empire. On 1 July 1909, he attended a public gathering at the Imperial Institute in London. Armed with a revolver, he walked up to Sir William Hutt Curzon Wyllie—a high-ranking political aide-de-camp to the Secretary of State for India—and shot him five times at close range, killing him instantly. He did not run away, surrendered immediately, and declared at his trial that his action was a righteous execution to avenge the exploitation of his homeland. Dhingra was hanged at Pentonville Prison on 17 August 1909.

100. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (28 May 1883 – 26 February 1966)

- **The Abhinav Bharat Network:** Born into a Marathi Brahmin family in Bhagur near Nashik, Maharashtra. While studying at Fergusson College in Pune, he founded the secret revolutionary society *Abhinav Bharat*. He traveled to London in 1906 on a scholarship to study law, turning *India House* into an underground operational base. He authored *The Indian War of Independence 1857*, a banned historical text that re-framed the mutiny as India's first coordinated national war against foreign rule.
- **The Marseille Leap and Cellular Prison:** Implicated in the Nashik Conspiracy Case involving the assassination of Collector Jackson, Savarkar was arrested in London in 1910. While being transported to India on the steamship *Morea*, he staged a daring

escape by jumping through a narrow ship porthole into the sea at Marseille, France. He swam to the shore but was recaptured by French police in violation of international extradition laws. He was sentenced to double life transportations (50 years) and sent to the notorious Cellular Jail in the Andaman Islands, where he endured brutal manual labor. Following his conditional release from house arrest in 1937, he articulated the socio-political ideology of *Hindutva* (Hindu Nationalism), serving as President of the Hindu Mahasabha. He passed away in February 1966.


INDIA MAP
MAJOR CENTRES OF
REVOLUTION & FREEDOM STRUGGLE
(1857 – 1947)
JAMMU & KASHMIR
1 1931 – Udhampur (Praja Movement)
2 1946 – Poonch (Peasant Revolt)
PUNJAB
3 1919 – Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar
4 Ghadar Movement Centres
DELHI
5 1857 – Revolt in Delhi
6 1942 – Quit India Movement
UTTAR PRADESH
7 1857 – Meerut (First War of Independence)
8 1857 – Kanpur
9 1857 – Lucknow
10 1921 – Gorakhpur (Kisan Movement)
11 1932 – Chauri Chaura
BIHAR
12 1917 – Champaran Satyagraha
13 1942 – Quit India Movement
WEST BENGAL
14 1905 – Swadeshi Movement
15 1908 – Alipore Bomb Case
16 1930 – Chittagong Armoury Raid
17 1942 – Tamluk (Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar)
RAJASTHAN
18 1913 – Bijolia Peasant Movement
19 1917 – Khedan[illegible] (Kisan Andolan)
20 1942 – Praja Mandal Movements
GUJARAT
21 1917 – Kheda Satyagraha
22 1918 – Ahmedabad Mill Strike
23 1930 – Dandi March
MAHARASHTRA
24 1905 – Swadeshi & Boycott
25 1909 – Abhinav Bharat Movement
26 1920 – Non-Cooperation Movement
27 1930 – Mumbai (Civil Disobedience)
28 1942 – Quit India Movement
MADHYA PRADESH
29 1857 – Sagar
30 1920 – Jabalpur (Jhanda Satyagraha)
31 1942 – Quit India Movement
CHHATTISGARH
32 1910 – Raipur (Swadeshi)
33 1922 – Kandel Nahar Satyagraha
ODISHA
34 1921 – Non-Cooperation Movement
35 1930 – Civil Disobedience
36 1942 – Quit India Movement
ASSAM & NORTH EAST
37 1828 – Ahom Resistance
38 1905 – Swadeshi Movement
39 1942 – Quit India Movement
40 1950s – Naga/Tribal Resistance (Pre-Independence Roots)
ANDHRA PRADESH & TELANGANA
41 1921 – Non-Cooperation Movement
42 1930 – Civil Disobedience
43 1946 – Telangana Peasant Armed Struggle (Pre-Independence Phase)
KARNATAKA
44 1916 – Gadag (Satyagraha)
45 1924 – Belgaum (Non-Cooperation)
46 1930 – Dharwad (Civil Disobedience)
47 1942 – Quit India Movement
TAMIL NADU
48 1908 – V.O. Chidambaram Movement
49 1911 – Tirunelveli Revolt
50 1930 – Vedaranyam Salt March
51 1942 – Quit India Movement
KERALA
52 1921 – Moplah Rebellion
53 1936 – Vaikom Satyagraha
54 1942 – Quit India Movement
JAMMU & KASHMIR
HIMACHAL PRADESH
HARYANA
RAJASTHAN
UTTAR PRADESH
SIKKIM
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ASSAM
NAGALAND
MEGHALAYA
MANIPUR
TRIPURA
MIZORAM
WEST BENGAL
JHARKHAND
GUJARAT
MADHYA PRADESH
DAMAN & DIU
DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI
MAHARASHTRA
ODISHA
TELANGANA
ANDHRA PRADESH
GOA
PUDUCHERRY
TAMIL NADU
LAKSHADWEEP
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
INDIAN OCEAN
LAKSHADWEEP
(Freedom Struggle Symbolic Support from Islands)
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
(Freedom Struggle Symbolic Centre)
1857 Revolt / First War of Independence
Revolutionary Activities & Movements
Satyagraha / Non-Cooperation / Civil Disobedience
Peasant & Tribal Movements
Quit India & Other Movements